

THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,879

THURSDAY 25 MARCH 1999



REVEALED! ENGLAND'S BEST (AND WORST) MANAGERS

EXCLUSIVE SURVEY, PAGE 29-28

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EDUCATION

INCLUDING SIX PAGES OF APPOINTMENTS



Air strikes begin as Blair says 'We must end vile oppression'

THE FIRST Nato bombs and cruise missiles smashed into targets across Yugoslavia last night as the Western alliance, after months of threats, launched its first attack on a sovereign state to force President Slobodan Milosevic to accept peace settlement in Kosovo.

Barely an hour after dozens of planes left Aviano base in north Italy, sirens wailed as four "huge" explosions were heard in Kosovo's capital, Pristina, and the city was plunged into darkness. At least eight explosions were reported in the Yugoslav capital, Belgrade, some near the military airport at Batina.

Other targets included an early-warning and missile defence site at Mount Rumija, on the Adriatic, and Montenegro's airport at Podgorica, which was ablaze last night. Air surveillance facilities at Kopanik, south-west Serbia, were also high on the list. So were missile and radar sites pinpointed by Nato undercover special forces on the ground in Yugoslavia.

In Berlin, Tony Blair said "we are taking this action for one very simple reason ... to stop Milosevic continuing his vile oppression against the Kosovar people."

In London earlier, George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, said the attacks would have "forensic" accuracy, but analysts said some civilian casualties were all but certain. British officials admitted Yugoslavia's defences, the most effective in the Balkans, might bring down some aircraft.

A diplomatic flurry continued almost to the last, including a phone consultation between Presidents Clinton and Boris Yeltsin. Russia, like China, opposes the strikes. But the die had by then long been cast, with the firepower of 400 planes and a dozen warships assembled around the Adriatic about to be unleashed.

In Berlin, where a crucial European summit had been hijacked by the Kosovo showdown, the 15 EU leaders said that "on the threshold of the 21st century, Europe could not tolerate a humanitarian catastrophe in its midst." In vain, they appealed to Mr Milosevic, even as the final hours ticked away, to change his mind. "A simple telephone call is all that's needed. Even now the military action could be called off," Joschka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, said. But the call never came.

Instead, the Belgrade authorities shut down the independent B92 radio station, and confiscated vital satellite broadcasting equipment from foreign television networks. Then the Yugoslav president went on television to urge Serbs to resist "by all means" the impending attack. "What is at stake here is the freedom of the entire country; Kosovo was only the door intended to allow foreign troops to come in."



Watchers encouraging United States B-52s yesterday as they took off from RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire. Last night, the first Nato bombs hit Yugoslavia

Chris Ison

The best service ordinary people could render was to go about their business as usual, Mr Milosevic said. But in Belgrade, business was anything but usual as the realisation sank in that this time, air strikes were a certainty. Long queues formed at petrol stations and panic buying was reported at many shops. The media published instructions from the city council on food and other necessities to take to air-raid shelters, and on how to signal to rescuers from beneath the rubble of destroyed buildings. "Be calm, do not

panic, but be decisive," was the official mantra of the hour.

In Kosovo, where the latest month-old Serb offensive has driven 65,000 people from their homes, the violence and the misery continued. As civilian and Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas alike waited for deliverance by Nato air power, Serb tanks kept up a two-hour artillery barrage at Blace, close to the border with Macedonia, setting houses ablaze in several nearby villages.

Indeed, among neighbouring countries, nowhere were apprehensions greater than in

Macedonia, with its large ethnic Albanian minority, and where 12,000 Nato troops are already assembled, part of a peacekeeping force that now may never reach Kosovo.

The fear was that once the bombing started, the powerful Yugoslav forces currently bombarding the Kosovo Liberation Army just across the border could launch a retaliatory artillery attack against the Nato units of their own. Macedonia is especially likely to be destabilised by fighting and a further influx of refugees. Although its borders with Kosovo are still

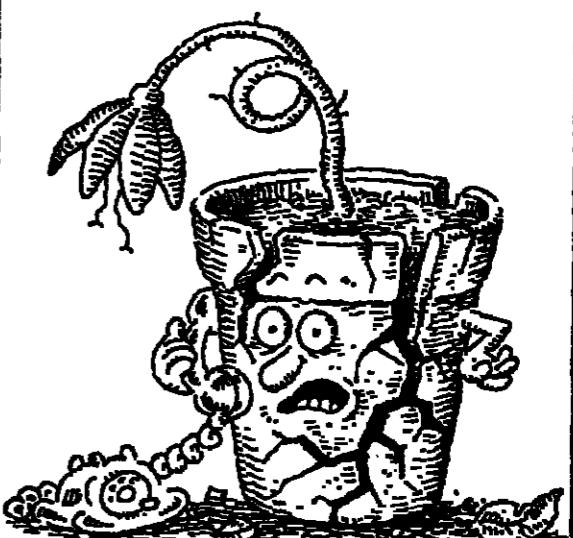
open, the Prime Minister, Ljubco Georgievski, has placed the country's meagre armed forces on full alert, and stressed that Turkey could be dragged into possible attacks on the US warships offshore.

In the worst case, Greece and Turkey could be dragged into the conflict, which might have "tragic consequences for the entire region," Tanjug said.

vit, said. A sentiment on which both Mr Clinton and the official Tanjug news agency agreed.

Nato had taken an "irrational" decision which might have "tragic consequences for the entire region," Tanjug said.

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Straw faces dilemma over Pinochet

By KIM SENGUPTA



THE LANDMARK ruling by the House of Lords on the fate of General Augusto Pinochet was greeted yesterday by both sides in the dispute as a limited victory but, in reality, it placed the burden of the next crucial decision on the shoulders of the Home Secretary, Jack Straw.

By a majority of 6-1 a panel of seven Law Lords decided that the former dictator of Chile could not claim immunity from prosecution as a former head of state. But in a caveat they drastically restricted the scope and number of charges facing him in an extradition request from Spain.

Giving the judgment, the senior Law Lord, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, invited Mr Straw to become involved. He said: "In view of the very substantial reduction in the number of extraditable charges, the matter will require to be reconsidered by the Secretary of State."

Lord Browne-Wilkinson said Pinochet, 83, could not be extradited for tortures committed in Chile before late 1988 - when the Criminal Justice Act 1988 made torture an "extraterritorial" crime under British law.

He added that, while Pinochet was entitled to immunity in relation to the charges of conspiracy to murder, he was not entitled to state immunity in relation to the remaining charges.

The bulk of the Spanish allegations against Pinochet related to torture offences in the early months and years after he seized power in a bloody military coup in September 1973.

Those campaigning for General Pinochet to face justice - human rights groups like Amnesty International, Baltazar Garzon, the Spanish judge seeking his extradition

and a number of British MPs - welcomed the decision that totalitarian rulers cannot hide under a cloak of immunity. In

Madrid, Judge Garzon said he remained confident there was

enough left in the charges to achieve extradition.

But supporters of the former dictator expressed satisfaction that the majority of the crimes against him had been ruled

inadmissible, and said they felt confident he would soon be on his way home to Chile.

The General's lawyers immediately mounted a fresh challenge in the High Court for a writ of *habeas corpus*, and to seek leave for a judicial review of Mr Straw's decision on 9 December last year to authorise the extradition process. Counsel Clive Nichols QC, for Pinochet, told the court: "This is the clearest case where the Secretary of State's authority to proceed is fatally flawed."

Lord Justice Laws, sitting with Mr Justice Crosswell and Mr Justice Latham, adjourned the case until Monday to enable the Home Secretary to study the Lords' ruling. In a statement, the Home Office said Mr Straw would "reconsider the matter... in the light of the House of Lords' judgment... as swiftly as possible."

The Home Secretary came

under immediate pressure from General Pinochet's Tory supporters to let him go. Baroness Thatcher said Mr Straw "should bring an end to this damaging episode and allow Senator Pinochet to return to Chile".

Tory leader William Hague said the ruling was "a sad day for democracy. The handling of this case has soured relations with Chile and destabilised their democracy".

Outside Parliament and outside the Wentworth estate in Surrey where Pinochet is under armed police guard, jubilant demonstrators danced after hearing the outcome, while others broke down in tears and hugged each other.

Full reports, pages 6 & 7
Leading article,
Review, page 3
Ariel Dorfman,
Geoffrey Robertson,
Review, page 5

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Literacy report
Seven million adults have serious difficulty reading and counting

Home P5

Prodi is new EU chief
Former Italian premier is nominated president of European Commission

Foreign P15

E2.8bn trade deficit
Export collapse pushes UK deficit to highest level since records began

Business P18

INSIDE THE REVIEW

David Aaronovitch
The world's problem is not too much policing, but too little

Comment P2

After Abba, it's Fabba
Impersonators of the Swedish pop band are the new dancing queens

Features P8

Hamish Macrae

Our chance to create a Europe that works

Comment P4

Love and death in LA
Bill Condon's Gods and Monsters reviewed

Film P10

Letters 2, Leaders & Comment 2-5, Obituaries 6-7, Features 8, Arts 9, Film 10-12, Law 13, Listings 15-16, Radio and Satellite TV 17-18

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Australia . . . 450,450
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Finland . . . 6,000
Greece . . . 12,000
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Iceland . . . 20,000
Ireland . . . 25,000
Italy . . . 20,000
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Norway . . . 30,000
Portugal . . . 15,000
Russia . . . 5,00,000
Spain . . . 100,000
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I appeal to the world, to all politicians, while there are minutes left, let us convince Clinton not to take this tragic, dramatic step

Boris Yeltsin

We are taking this action for one reason: to prevent Milosevic from continuing to perpetrate his vile oppression

Tony Blair

The only right decision we could make was to reject foreign troops coming on to our territory

Slobodan Milosevic

The president's mood is good. It's easy to be in a good mood when your cause is just

Boris Milosevic, envoy to Russia and brother of Slobodan

Only firmness can prevent a catastrophe. The dangers of acting now are outweighed by the dangers of failing to act

President Bill Clinton

Europe cannot tolerate a catastrophe in its midst. An aggressor must know that he will have to pay a high price

EU declaration

Milosevic 'must not widen conflict'

WORLD REACTION

AS THE first fighter jets took off from their bases in Italy, the United States issued a new warning to the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, saying that he should not interpret Nato's use of force as giving him "a free hand" to act elsewhere in Yugoslavia.

European leaders meeting in Berlin also issued a toughly worded statement condemning Serbia's human rights violations in Kosovo, lamenting the plight of its population and warning: "An aggressor must know that he will have to pay a high price. That is the lesson to be learnt from the 20th century."

The statement, however, fell short of formally sanctioning the air strikes and masked the misgivings of several member states. Greece kept its objections to itself, but neutral Sweden voiced doubts. Its foreign minister, Anna Lindh, said that air strikes "would not be covered by international law".

The German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, conceded that the statement was a token of EU "solidarity" rather than a declaration of war on Serbia. All Mr Milosevic had to do to turn back military action was to make a telephone call saying that he was ready to accept and implement the recent Rambouillet peace accord on Kosovo's future status, he added.

In Washington the US State Department spokesman, James Rubin, warned Serbia against any attempt to overturn the pro-Western government in Yugoslavia's other republic, Montenegro. Mr Rubin said such action would "only fuel regional instability and escalate the conflict with

For Mr Clinton, who spoke to a predominantly black audience in commemoration of Ron Brown, the US Trade Secretary killed when his plane crashed in Croatia several years ago, the main objective was humanitarian: to halt the suffering in Kosovo. Mr Clinton was expected to make another statement after the first strikes last night in an address to the nation from the Oval Office.

MARY DEJEVSKY AND IMRE KARACS

THIS IS the text of a statement released yesterday by EU heads of state and government on the Kosovo crisis:



Ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo waiting to register at a refugee centre in Macedonia *Fehim Demir*

'Europe cannot tolerate this'

EU LEADERS' STATEMENT

been driven from their homes in the last month [and] 25,000 since the peace talks broke down in Paris last Friday ... The Yugoslav leadership under President Milosevic has persistently refused to engage seriously in the search for a political solution ... Finally, the Yugoslav security forces are conducting military operations against the civilian population in Kosovo in contravention of the provisions of UN Security Council resolution 1199.

On the threshold of the 21st century Europe cannot tolerate a humanitarian catastrophe in its midst. It cannot be permitted that the predominant population of Kosovo is collectively deprived of its rights and subjected to grave human rights abuses. We, the countries of the European Union, are under a moral obligation to ensure that indiscriminate behaviour and violence, which became tangible in the massacre at Racak in January 1999, are not repeated ... An aggressor must know that he will have to pay a high price. That is the lesson to be learnt from the 20th century ... Our policy is neither directed against the Yugoslav or Serb population ... It is directed against security forces cynically and brutally fighting a part of their own population.

We want to put an end to these outrages ...

Why we have drawn the line over Kosovo'

WESTMINSTER

GEORGE ROBERTSON, the Defence Secretary, told MPs last night that Slobodan Milosevic was "hell bent on war" and Nato had no alternative but to respond with an air attack.

There was overwhelming support for the action, but many MPs privately said the backing masked a deep cross-party unease at Westminster at the objectives of the air attacks on Serbian forces.

Military chiefs have assured

Mr Blair they are confident the more limited objectives are achievable. The Defence Secretary yesterday told the cross-



Robertson: 'Milosevic is hell-bent on war'

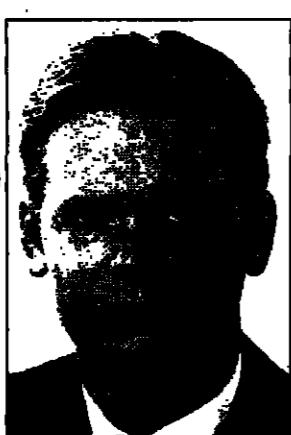
party Commons Defence Select Committee he had sufficient forces to meet all the potential action Milosevic might take.

If troops in Macedonia or Bosnia were attacked, Mr Robertson said: "They [the Serbs] would be attacking people who are engaged in peacekeeping and represent no threat to them. It would be gross violation of international law. To do so would lead to an immediate and considerable response in self-defence from us."

He added: "What we have tried to do in Bosnia and in Kosovo is to tell those who would use violence to achieve historical missions or day-to-day land aggression cannot get away with it. In Kosovo, we have to draw the line."

COLIN BROWN

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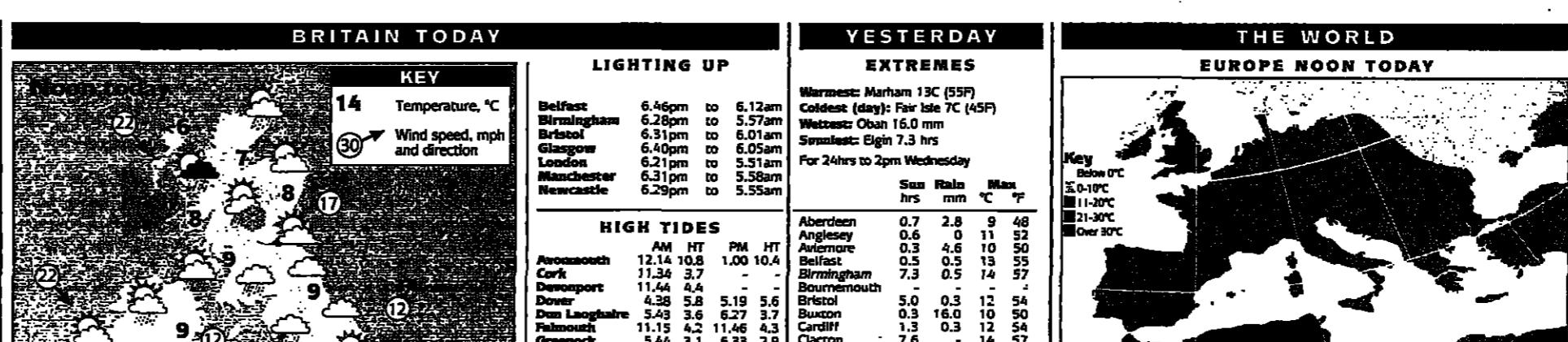
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Calm before the storm in city that thought it would never be bombed

ON STREETS OF BELGRADE

"THEY'LL NEVER bomb us," said a man in torn jeans only hours before Nato's massive bombardment began. He was shovelling soil into the back of a lorry beside a main road. "They don't have the balls for it." His friend disagreed, "I think they will," he said, against the din of the rush hour traffic. "But they have no reason to."

The men are stonemasons and bricklayers from Crna Trava in the far south of Serbia near the Bulgarian and Macedonian borders and not far from Kosovo. They won't give their names, but want their region mentioned. "It's famous for its stonemasons," one man explains. "The best in all Serbia."

Like most people on the streets of the capital, they say their president is right not to sign the Kosovo peace accords, which would give self-rule to Kosovo with its large Albanian majority.

Further down George Washington Avenue, in the centre Belgrade, Goran, Velko and Dragan, all aged six or seven, were playing football in their school playground. "Everyone says they're going to bomb us," Velko said. "But I think they won't do it. I think they're just mucking around."

Yesterday was almost a normal working day in Belgrade. But not quite. From early morning people could be seen reading their newspapers as they walked down the street, rather than at home or in a cafe.

And for those who dislike the Milošević government an important part of their daily routine disappeared – listening to B22 Radio, the most influential of all the independent media. The station was raided by police and officials from the telecommunications ministry early on Tuesday morning and taken off the air.

Until now its programmes have been re-broadcast by local radio stations throughout Serbia. "With one blow the independent media has been decapitated," a journalist at



A driver waiting in a petrol queue in Belgrade. Supplies have been re-routed to the Yugoslav armed forces by the government while the crisis goes on. Andrei Isakovic

the weekly magazine *Vreme* said. *Vreme* could be under threat when this week's issue goes to print tonight.

The satellite station of the European broadcast union used to feed television programmes out of Serbia. It was also closed down by police yesterday. They also confiscated a BBC camera.

Serbia's independent media in Serbia, already crushed by a draconian law on information enacted last October, is bracing

itself for more closures, and perhaps the detention of journalists. "There is no mercy for deserters, for those who disseminate panic, who spread false rumours, or who in any way diminish the defence capabilities of the country," said Vojislav Seselj, head of the Serbian Radical Party and deputy prime minister in the Serbian government.

The "state of the imminent threat of war," declared on Tuesday evening, has already

given the government some powers to curtail civil liberties. The more serious measure – the declaration of a state of war – would allow the government to mobilise the whole male adult population. Then do almost anything it wishes.

But many in Belgrade still doubt it will come to that. They might mobilise everyone in southern Serbia," said Goran, 32, an engineer. "But they wouldn't dare mobilise the people of Belgrade. They are too

afraid of us taking our guns and going up to shoot a few people in Dedijje, before we go to Kosovo." Dedijje is a smart residential hilltop above the city and home to many senior officials, including Slobodan Milošević.

The loyalty of the army is discussed in opposition circles. A purge of the military leadership took place earlier this week. That followed another purge last December, when the commander in chief, Momčilo Perisić, was replaced. He had publicly criticised the regime for "trying to go to war with the whole world".

The officer corps of the Yugoslav army has been increasingly politicised in the past years, with top positions going to officers who are also members of JUL – the Party of the Yugoslav left, run by president Milošević's powerful wife, Mira. A cartoon in *Vreme* showed Slobodan and Mira, their arms around each other's shoulders,

up on the bowsprit of the Titanic.

Pro-government observers scorn any questioning of the army's loyalty. "If the army abandons the country in its hour of need, it would undermine the whole purpose of its existence," said Miroslav Lazanski, defence correspondent of Serbia's best-selling tabloid, *Vesernji Novosti*. "The army is not threatening anybody. But we will defend ourselves. And the countries that

allow their airspace to be used will be exposed to retaliation." Lazanski went on to sketch one of the scenarios that Nato commanders fear – attacks on Nato troops in Bosnia and Macedonia, and on naval vessels in the Adriatic.

In the past week, the generals have repeatedly referred to the heroic exploits of the Serbian army in the First and Second World Wars, and far back into history in the rebellions against the Turkish rulers.

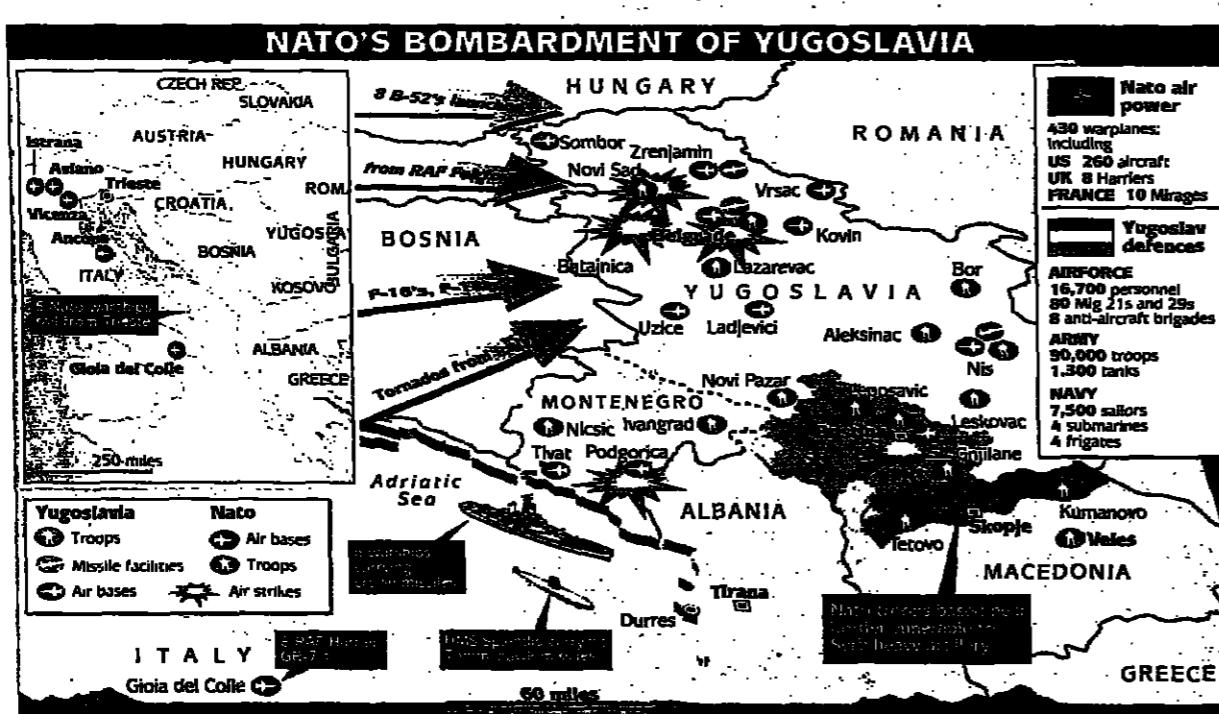
On Kalemegdan Hill overlooking Belgrade, the military museum is housed in the old fortress. Outside, in a grassy moat, grey painted tanks and artillery pieces, mostly relics from the Second World War, point their barrels harmlessly at the skies. Most are covered in graffiti – declarations of eternal love, swear words, and "Fight war, not wars".

Inside the museum there is the order issued by the commander of the 2nd Battalion, the 10th Regiment, and addressed to the defenders of Belgrade against Austria-Hungary on 9 October 1915. "Precisely at 3pm the enemy is to be... torn to pieces by our hand grenades and bayonets. The honour of Belgrade... is to be upheld. Soldiers, heroes, our regiment is sacrificed for the honour of the fatherland." Others like referring to the German air attack on 6 April 1941 when large parts of the city were damaged and thousands were killed.

But yesterday many Belgraders were worried about the fate of their sons in Yugoslavia's army. Of the 114,000 soldiers, the vast majority are conscripts serving 13 months' military service. Until yesterday they were most afraid of them dying from the ethnic Albanian Kosova Liberation Army. Now their fears are redoubled by the thought that they could be killed by a Cruise missile fired from a Nato plane or warship.

"The innocent always die first," a mourner at the funeral of a young Yugoslav army soldier who was killed in the fighting in Kosovo told me last week.

NICK THORPE



Ground troops prepare for Serb retaliation

MILITARY STRATEGY

BRITISH AND other Nato ground troops in Macedonia were preparing for a Serb counter-offensive last night in the aftermath of allied air strikes.

The troops, part of the 10,000 Nato advance force already in place, are the most vulnerable to retaliation. Defence sources say Serbs in neighbouring Kosovo have moved units of heavy artillery within range, and possess former Soviet-made Katyusha rockets.

Nato troops on peace implementation duty in Bosnia could also become targets. The Serbs have repeatedly said they will respond with force against Nato if attacked.

In Macedonia, the main base for the 4,200 British contingent is at Veles, more than 100km from the Yugoslav border. But units in the capital, Skopje, and Kumanovo are within the 25km-range of Serb guns. These include the provisional headquarters for Lieutenant-General Sir Mike Jackson, commander of Nato's allied rapid reaction force

(ARRC), and the reinforced company of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

These troops were originally part of the French-led extraction force, on stand-by to rescue unarmed monitors from Kosovo. But as all the monitors have left, they will become part of the larger Nato force now assembling.

The main French contingent of 2,500 troops is also based at Kumanovo. The German force of about 2,700 troops is in Tetovo, also in the danger zone.

Defence sources yesterday conceded there was a threat to troops there. "But we believe that the threat is not so great that we can't cope with it," said one. "We can't guarantee the safety of our troops, but believe we have a very robust defence and a robust response if necessary."

That response rests on three main areas. The dispersal of the majority of the Nato force so

presence to over 8,000, is on stand-by in Germany.

Political and military sources have repeatedly claimed these land forces will be used only for peace-keeping duties. The main thrust of offensive action against the Serbs will come from the 400 allied aircraft, predominantly American, based in Italy and other European bases, and from Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from naval vessels.

These include the British nuclear submarine HMS Splendid. With cruise missiles launched from US B-52 bombers, flying from Britain, this first wave of attacks will be against the Serbian integrated air defence system.

Follow-up attacks from manned aircraft would then target army and special police units operating in Kosovo. The plans allow for "breathing spaces" to be introduced at any stage to let the Serbs agree to allow peace-keeping troops into the province.

JONATHAN DAVISON AND PAUL WOOD

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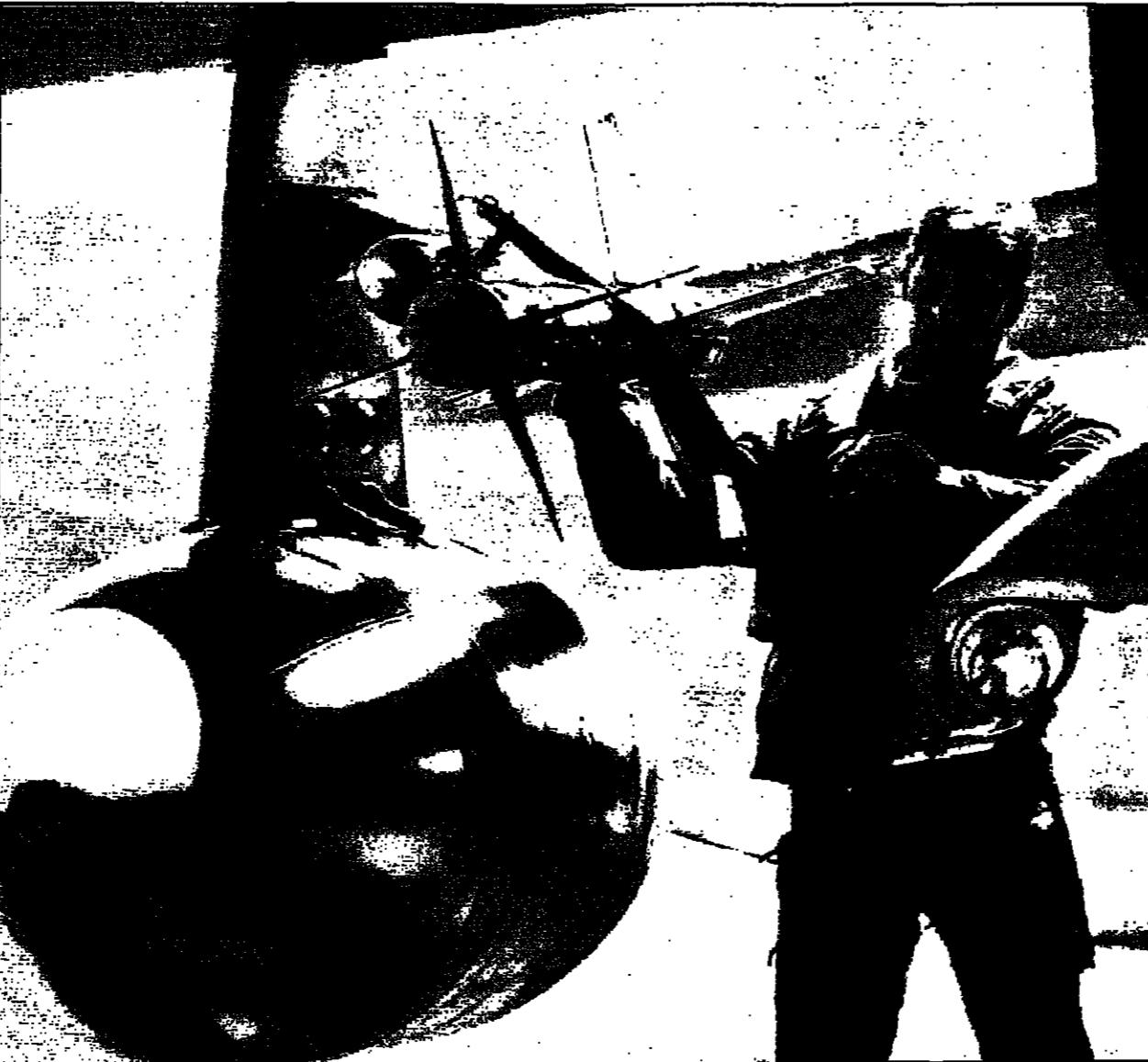
Luftwaffe set for war after 54 years

GERMANY'S TABOO

FEAR STALKS Germany, the fear of German soldiers going into battle in a distant land. It has not happened for 54 years, but over the skies of Kosovo, any day now, a German is almost sure to fire in anger, breaking a national taboo of two generations.

The Germans have ducked out of previous conflicts with great skill. In place of troops, they had sent a cheque to the allied battalions that liberated Kuwait. And although they had loudly proclaimed their special interest in the Balkans, they declined to contribute to the defence of Sarajevo and the other so-called "safe havens" of Bosnia. When the war came to an end in 1995, Germany sent in army doctors and nurses, stationing them at a safe distance from the main conflagration.

But now the Germans are coming. A fleet of 14 Luftwaffe Tornados is standing by at the Italian base of Piacenza. Their missiles were armed a year ago, after the German parliament, the Bundestag, voted to approve German participation in a Nato strike. Since then, the pilots have been watching de-



A German pilot checks the armament on his Tornado at the San Samiano airbase in northern Italy ANSA

velopments closely on CNN.

German politicians are not sending them in lightly. Discussions about whether the constitution allowed Germans to kill abroad in situations not directly endangering the Fatherland have been going on at various intensity for decades.

With a leftist government now in power, the marching orders are particularly ironic. The Greens coalesced 20 years ago largely around their pacifist sentiment. Yet it is now a Green Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, who must tell the country that bombing the Serbs is the only way. Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, another former peacekeeper, explained the decision in the simplest words:

"There is no other choice."

The 14 German Tornados will be in the first waves of any attacks. Their mission is to destroy Serbian air defences and radar installations, softening the enemy for the heavier bombers of the US.

That is where the Germans draw the line. To illustrate the government's lack of enthusiasm for the Kosovo mission, invited by Slobodan Milošević into Kosovo. As that

is not likely to happen, the troops are digging in.

They are about to be united with their heavy gear, arriving via the Greek port of Thessaloniki. However, the German press is full of stories about the shambolic nature of this force. The 28 Leopard tanks are said to be too bulky for the small roads leading to the Macedonian capital, Skopje. The government denies this, but admits

that reports suggesting the Leopards lack spare parts are not without foundation.

There are also rumours that the German encampments are vulnerable to Serbian air attacks. The government says this is nonsense, but is rushing Stinger air defence missiles to Macedonia, just in case.

The hardware will probably work. No one is quite certain, however, how the soldiers will

react. Unlike other forces, the German army and Luftwaffe are governed by the central dogma of "Innere Führung" - "internal leadership". Because of their history, German soldiers are encouraged to place moral considerations above military commands. If they don't like the order, they can jump it. The folks back home will understand.

IMRE KARACS

THE FIRST Nato bomb to crater Yugoslav soil will go down in history as the moment when Russia realised exactly how far it has fallen since it bestrode the world as a super-power counterbalancing American might.

The alliance refusal to listen to Moscow's pleas to spare its Slavic cousins marks a new low in Russia's ambivalent relationship with the United States.

Russia, to its horror finds itself cast not as an enemy but as a sponging lightweight.

Kosovo has turned Russian reservations about the West into concrete resentment and deep suspicion likely to influence policy for years.

Yesterday in Moscow outrage echoed across the political spectrum, moderated only by the humiliating recognition that Russia must turn again to the West for loans. After 11th hour calls to the US President Bill Clinton and Jacques Chirac of France, Boris Yeltsin appeared on national TV to appeal to Nato to stay its hand. He spoke ominously of the world facing "a war in Europe and possibly something greater".

The Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, hinted about arming the Serbs, saying a Nato attack could render the UN arms embargo void. Marshal Igor Sergeyev, the Defence Minister, talked of Yugoslavia as a "second Vietnam", and placed the armed forces on a "higher alert". From the ascendant Communists there were calls for Russian

military assistance, from the nationalists blusters about restoring a Stalinist dictatorship so Russia should not be so humiliated again.

The mood is one of deep grievance. This week Mr Clinton was to meet the Russian Premier, Yevgeny Primakov, but the Premier's plane turned round in mid-Atlantic after he concluded Nato bombing was

spawning lightweight.

Before, the American president had spoken of "the right kind" of relationship with the Russians, who could be "great partners". There is not much evidence he is willing to back his words with actions.

Now Washington mixes hardball with a strategy of ignoring Russia. Moscow's protests over the Anglo-American bombing of Iraq fell on deaf ears. The US hectors Moscow over weapons technology transfers to Iran. The International Monetary Fund lectures them on how to run a market economy, despite the fund helping to cause August's crash.

Russia's economy is now the size of Belgium's. But their 30,000 nuclear warheads and chemical weapons cannot be overlooked.

Bill Clinton said Russia's 40,000 nuclear scientists should do "peaceful good things, not barter their services to other countries to cause trouble". That fine sentiment will not be furthered by Nato bombing Yugoslavia.

PHIL REEVES

Russian anger after alliance ignores pleas

MOSCOW REACTION



Vietnam veteran who became Nato's military 'boss'

THE COMMANDER

IN THE late 1960s two ultrabright boys from Little Rock went to Oxford as Rhodes scholars. One worked hard, took his degree and left early to serve in Vietnam. The other did not inhale, did not get a degree, did not get drafted and is now President of the United States.

That first Arkansan is called Wesley Clark. At 54 he is two

years older than Bill Clinton, his commander-in-chief. More to the point, he is a four-star general in the US Army and, as Nato's top uniformed officer, the man giving the orders for the bombing of Yugoslavia.

Clark, "The Boss" to his aides, is that quintessential American creature, the political soldier. A British general will have as little as possible to

do with "political wallahs." But since that stint in Vietnam, where he was wounded and awarded the Silver Star, Clark's rise owes as much to his skills at dealing with politics as to his ability as a soldier.

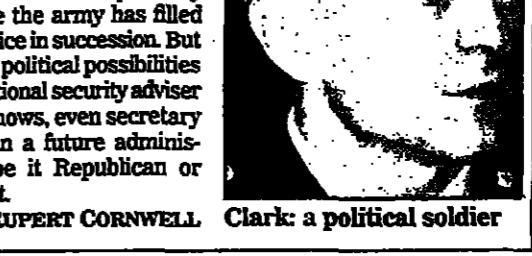
After Vietnam he worked in the White House under Alexander Haig, Nixon's chief of staff, and future Nato supreme commander and secretary of state.

Clark and Clinton have white-grey hair in common but little else. Where Clinton tends to sloppiness and verbosity, he is disciplined and weighs every word. And his pri-

vate life truly is private. Until the Balkans brought them together, the Arkansans' paths had barely crossed. But, as Bosnia became an increasing US diplomatic priority, Clark emerged as a key presidential adviser. Later he was Richard Holbrooke's closest aide during the 1995 Dayton conference. Thanks to those talks and several recent missions to Bel-

grade, he knows his foe, Slobodan Milošević, uncommonly well. But he has failed to sway the Yugoslav President with words. He must now do it by war, and remember enough of the Vietnam tragedy to keep Nato out of a similarly disastrous entanglement in the Balkans.

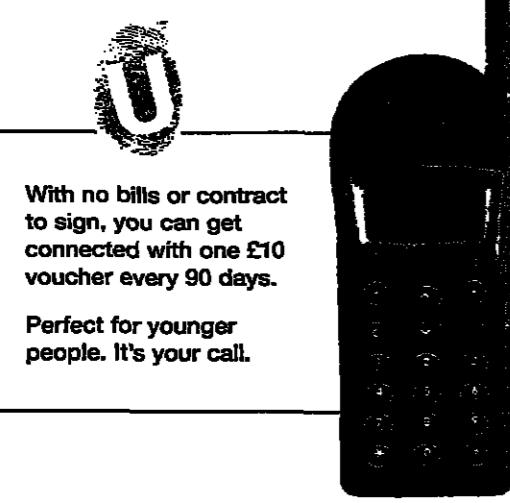
If he does, the ladder may stretch higher still for Wes



Clark: a political soldier

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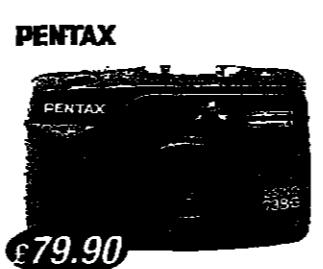
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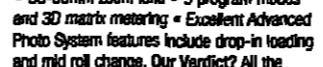
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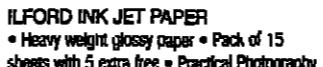
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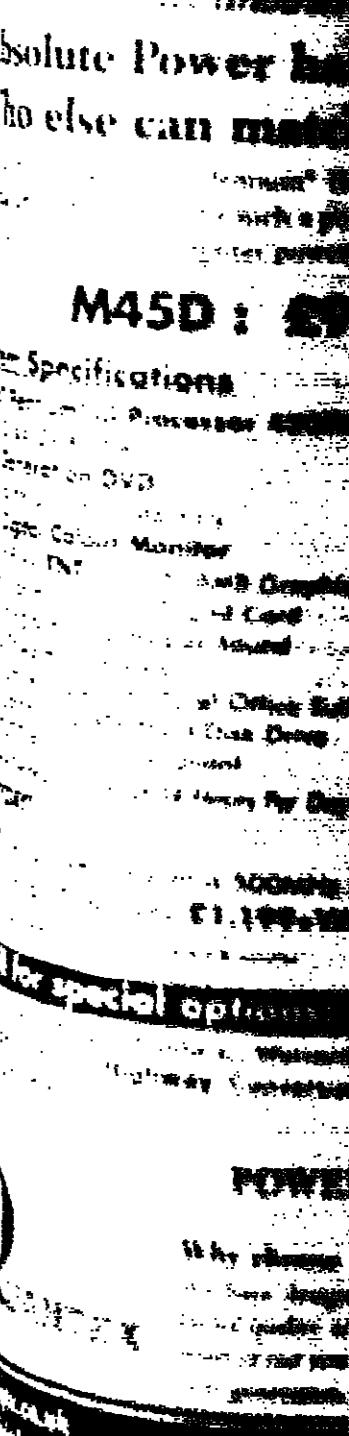
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Protesters' joyous as 'justice is done'

LONDON REACTION

IN THE public gallery of the House of Lords, Ariel Dorfman, a Chilean playwright, punched the air and shouted "justicia". Outside the building the ruling was greeted with euphoria by anti-Pinochet demonstrators huddled around their transistor radios.

Five months after they first mounted a bedraggled protest outside Parliament, the protesters finally had the outcome they wanted.

When the news came through at about 2.20pm, they erupted into a blur of leaping, singing bodies. Champagne was sprayed over the crowd. For this group of refugees, former prisoners and relatives of "disappeared" Chileans, the result was simple: Pinochet was on his way to Spain.

But the sting in the tail of the decision – the ruling that General Augusto Pinochet is not answerable for charges of human rights abuses before 1988 – enabled his supporters to claim victory too.

Baroness Thatcher, one of the general's most loyal allies, said it would be "quite wrong" to keep him in Britain. "The judgment puts the matter back into the hands of the Home Secretary," she said. "He should now bring to an end this damaging episode and allow Senator Pinochet to return to Chile."

Lord Lamont of Lerwick, another vociferous supporter, said: "The whole thing is a farce. It should never have got this far."

Maria Anjelica Christie, a right-wing Chilean senator and close friend of the former dictator, said: "We hope very strongly that this will bring an end to what has brought so much grief and suffering to our country." Senator Christie, who saw General Pinochet yesterday, said she thought he would be "happy" with the verdict. "He is a very strong man and in good health," she said. "He was prepared for this. He was a soldier. This will make him feel more at peace."

From time to time, over the months, there have been Pinochet supporters too outside Parliament, most of them well-heeled, middle-aged women wearing fur coats and brandishing glossy leaflets. Yester-



Anti-Pinochet demonstrators celebrating in Parliament Fields as the law lords' decision is announced yesterday

Lords' limits dilute elation

SPANISH REACTION

TEARS AND champagne mingled in the rain in Puerta del Sol, Madrid, yesterday where 200 of Augusto Pinochet's victims, their relatives and supporters, greeted the news that kept alive Spain's extradition bid.

"This is a historic decision that we've been awaiting for 25 years," said one survivor of General Pinochet's dictatorship. But after the initial euphoria the mood became more sombre as the crowd absorbed the limitations of the judgment.

Judge Baltazar Garzon, whose arrest warrant last October caused General Pinochet's detention and began the legal saga, hastened to the National Court to discuss with his colleagues the next step. He observed enigmatically that the day was "as grey and rainy as in London", but there was a smile on his lips.

Laura Soria, widow of Carmelo Soria, a Spaniard who was tortured and killed by General Pinochet's secret police soon after the 1973 coup, suggested the fact that the former dictator could not now be tried for the crime against her husband. But she was not angry. "It is a crucial advance in the struggle against impunity that goes beyond individual cases," she said.

In the Chilean capital, Santiago, hundreds gathered outside the Pinochet Foundation. As the verdict was announced a prolonged cheer broke out. It seemed that General Pinochet had won a complete victory.

But slowly it became clear the general would not be returning at once. A sober-faced committee made up of retired generals gathered to assess the verdict. The ruling was a step forward, they said, but it was not the total victory they had been hoping for.

ELIZABETH NASH

David Rose

CASE MAY SET RECORD FOR COSTS

THE PINOCHET affair may become the most expensive proceedings in British legal history. So far the bill has exceeded £8m; now new extradition proceedings and appeals will raise that figure still further.

Add the cost of a police operation since the general

was arrested, £50,000 a week, and the total could top the £30m it cost for the Maxwell case.

The "meter" started ticking before General Pinochet was arrested, when lawyers for the Foreign Office and Crown Prosecution Service considered the Spanish extradition request. By the time the first High Court hearing had taken place, government counsel fees alone were £123,625. The general's nine-strong legal team cost an estimated £12,000 each a day and the Government's team will easily match that.

Protesters – who pinned photographs of people who dis-

appeared under the military regime to police barriers – banged drums, blew whistles and burst into tears when the news was relayed over loudspeakers. National flags flut-

tered in the wind.

Political reaction was swift and predictable. Ann Clwyd, chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, said: "This is a very welcome day for the relatives of those who have suffered and who have campaigned for truth and justice."

William Hague, the Conservative leader, said it was "a sad day for democracy". In a statement, he said: "Chile is now a democratic country and as such has the right to try General Pinochet for these al-

leged crimes in a Chilean court."

The general's lawyer, Miguel Alex Schweizer, was hauled on to the ruling: "Compared to what we had before, this is good," he said.

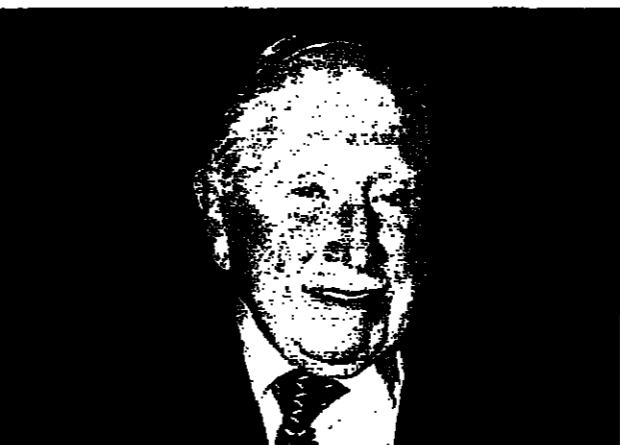
But for the crowd outside Parliament, it was better than good. They had become a familiar sight, chanting their favourite slogan, "Pinochet, Dictador, Espa馻 Por Favor".

Yesterday they cheered as Mr Dorfman emerged from inside the building and addressed them in excitable Spanish, telling them: "This is a gift from the dead of Chile to humanity. It is a great victory."

PAUL WAUGH AND KATHY MARKS

Millions and Thatcherite support ease detention

PINOCHET'S ROUTINE



Pinochet: Threatening to die a martyr Martin Thomas

ONCE AGAIN the plane was waiting on the asphalt and General Augusto Pinochet and his family had their bags packed to make what they believed would be a triumphant return home.

His influential supporters from Chile had flown to London and one of his British admirers, Lord Lamont of Lerwick, was in the Lords to phone in the expected good news.

But after yesterday's decision, the former dictator and alleged torturer and murderer will have to stay under house arrest at his rented house in Wentworth Estate, Surrey, at least a little longer. He is said to have been disappointed by not being freed immediately, but encouraged by the ruling that he cannot be extradited for crimes committed before 1988.

The general and his family have been staying at the home, rented by the Chilean government, for several months since his arrest while recovering from a back operation at the London Clinic in Harley Street. Since then he has been threatening to die in Britain as a "martyr to the Fatherland" and has been chairing meetings to plan his defence campaign. In the light of the Lords' ruling, this will take on fresh impetus.

The former dictator has around him a support party of Thatcherites to advise and help fund his defence. They include Lord Bell, Lord Lamont, Paul Johnson, Patrick Robertson, the former PR man for Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, and Robin Harris, an adviser to Baroness Thatcher.

Both the pro and anti-Pinochet camps have been engaged in a propaganda battle but when it came to financial muscle, the Pinochet camp was well ahead.

As well as wealthy sympathisers in Britain, the Pinochet Foundation in Santiago, backed by businessmen, poured money into the campaign. More than £2m was raised and hundreds of Pinochet supporters have flown to Britain to show their "spontaneous loyalty" to the man accused of ordering 4,000 deaths.

At the Wentworth Estate, the general's life has set into a pattern of morning walks in the garden, accompanied by armed

police, and afternoons of meetings with supporters. They can drink a cabernet sauvignon bottled for him by an admiring wine-grower in Chile, although the general is teetotal.

General Pinochet has become an avid reader of stories about himself in British and Chilean newspapers and is proficient at surfing the Internet for more. He is also writing his autobiography and there are well-thumbed volumes on the life of Napoleon, his hero.

In Chile there was consternation from Pinochet followers about the activities of the general's eldest son, Augusto, who raised money among anti-Castro exiles in Miami. He also appeared on Chilean television screaming wildly and calling his father's critics "beasts". An alarmed General Pinochet asked the foundation to curb his son's activities.

The PR firm Bell Pottinger was reportedly given a £200,000 contract by the Pinochet Foundation and a series of stories was placed in sympathetic newspapers, with photo opportunities at the Wentworth Estate, where he repeated his protestations of innocence and threats to die in Britain.

KIM SENGUPTA

Tide of law threatens dictators

LOSING EXEMPTION

may be held to account in the future for what they do now.

The lords' ruling that, in the Pinochet case, the 1988 Torture Act is not retrospective is a blow to the prospect of extraditing him to Spain. However, legal experts say the ruling establishes that former heads of state cannot claim blanket immunity.

The concept of state immunity was enshrined in England in the State Immunity Act of 1978, for diplomatic reasons. But the concept had been challenged after the First World War when there was an unsuc-

cessful attempt to bring charges against Kaiser Wilhelm II.

After the Second World War, the prosecution of Nazi war criminals was former The Charter of the International Military Tribunal in 1945 said: "The official position of defendants, whether heads of state or... officials in government departments, shall not be considered as freeing them from responsibility or mitigating punishment." Since then there have been international tribunals set up for war crimes committed in Rwanda and former Yugoslavia, again

reiterating that those accused of human rights offences should not be allowed to hide under the cloak of state immunity.

The tide of law appears to be running against the dictators. The Rome statute for the International Criminal Court, signed by 120 countries including the United Kingdom, Chile and Spain, though not yet ratified, states: "In particular, official capacity as a head of state or government, a member of a government or parliament... shall in no case exempt a person from criminal responsibility under this Statute."

KIM SENGUPTA

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John M. Rose

Lords vote puts Straw on the spot

HOME SECRETARY'S DILEMMA

JUST WHEN Jack Straw must have been hoping to stop brooding about Augusto Pinochet, the old dictator is back to haunt him.

Yesterday's decision by the law lords puts the onus of the legal fate of General Pinochet firmly back on the Home Secretary. Whatever decision he makes, he will be subject to fierce criticism.

Having agreed by six to one that the former Chilean dictator did not enjoy immunity from prosecution, the law lords added the tricky caveat of stating that he could not be tried for alleged crimes committed before 1988, thus making the possibility of extradition to Spain much more difficult.

Nearly all of the charges in the Spanish warrant relate to the period between 1973, when General Pinochet came to power, and 1988, when Britain became a signatory to the International Torture Convention.

Also yesterday, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, the senior judge on the panel, privately invited Mr Straw to reconsider whether the extradition process should continue.

Within minutes of yesterday's ruling the pressure on Mr Straw had begun with Baroness Thatcher - who had tea with the



Jack Straw: Faces renewed pressure over extradition

general before his arrest - stating: "In these circumstances it is quite wrong to keep [General Pinochet] here. The judgment puts the matter firmly back into the hands of the Home Secretary. He should now bring to an end this damaging episode and allow Senator Pinochet to return to Chile."

That view was echoed by the former Tory chancellor Lord Lamont of Lerwick. "The law lords have drastically scaled down the charges for extradition... the Home Secretary should withdraw his authority to proceed... the whole thing is a farce - the Home Secretary should drop it," he said.

Instead, the Hoffmann controversy led to the unprecedented quashing of the first law

lords ruling, which was, by a majority of three to two, that the former Chilean dictator did not have immunity from prosecution. Lord Hoffmann cast the final vote against the general and became the toast of the liberal intelligentsia as the progressive face of the legal establishment. But all that turned to ashes when it

LORD HOFFMANN'S LEGACY

emerged later that he had failed to declare that his wife worked for Amnesty International and he was a key figure in its fundraising arm.

Amnesty had appeared as intervenors at the hearing and argued that General Pinochet

turned to the High Court to apply for a judicial review over Mr Straw's original granting of the extradition authority and an application for habeas corpus. If this fails and Mr Straw decides to continue with the authority, then the extradition process would get under way.

The hearings could then take months and, if magistrates decided that General Pinochet should face trial in Spain, his

legal team would have an opportunity to appeal against that. The matter then comes back to the Home Secretary, who would decide whether extradition should go ahead. He might, even then, decide to send the general home on compassionate grounds. If he said extradition should go ahead, the general has a further right of appeal.

The Home Secretary will have to weigh up the legal issues, but will be unable to ignore political repercussions.

All this is full of pitfalls for Mr Straw, whose image as the Cabinet's safe pair of hands has suffered recently. He faced controversy over leaks from the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report and his attempts to slap an injunction on the advance reporting of its contents. This week he unsuccessfully sought to block the early release of

KIM SENGUPTA

IRA prisoners. And he became the centre of debate after urging people to end the "walk-on-by" society by tackling wrongdoers.

When he last considered the Pinochet case, backbenchers made clear that failure to allow proceedings could thwart any ambitions Mr Straw had for higher political office. Whether he comes under such pressure this time remains to be seen.

KIM SENGUPTA

Oversight led to humiliation of legal system

THE SHADOW OF Lord Hoffmann was ever-present at the Lords hearing. Put simply, if it had not been for him it would never have taken place and the convoluted and seemingly never-ending legal process may well have concluded by now.

Instead, the Hoffmann controversy led to the unprecedented quashing of the first law

lords decision by 5-0 that the first ruling should be set aside. It was a humiliating day for British justice, and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, said that in future, judges must declare their interests.

What was so galling for those who wanted to see General Pinochet face justice was that the first ruling had been thrown away by a foolish oversight.

If Lord Hoffmann had mentioned the connection he and his wife had to Amnesty at the beginning of the Lords' hearing, say many observers, there is every possibility that there would have been no objection from General Pinochet's team.

KIM SENGUPTA

should face justice in Spain. The link was known in most legal circles. General Pinochet's solicitor, Kingsley Napley, had given generously to an Amnesty appeal in response to a letter signed by, among others, Lord Hoffmann and the Lord

Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill. Sitting on the Privy Council, Lord Hoffmann had also given rulings inimical to Amnesty's position.

But General Pinochet's lawyers appealed against the ruling

on the basis that there was "an

appearance of bias". Law lords decided by 5-0 that the first ruling should be set aside. It was a humiliating day for British justice, and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, said that in future, judges must declare their interests.

What was so galling for those who wanted to see General Pinochet face justice was that



Lord Hoffmann: His links with Amnesty well known

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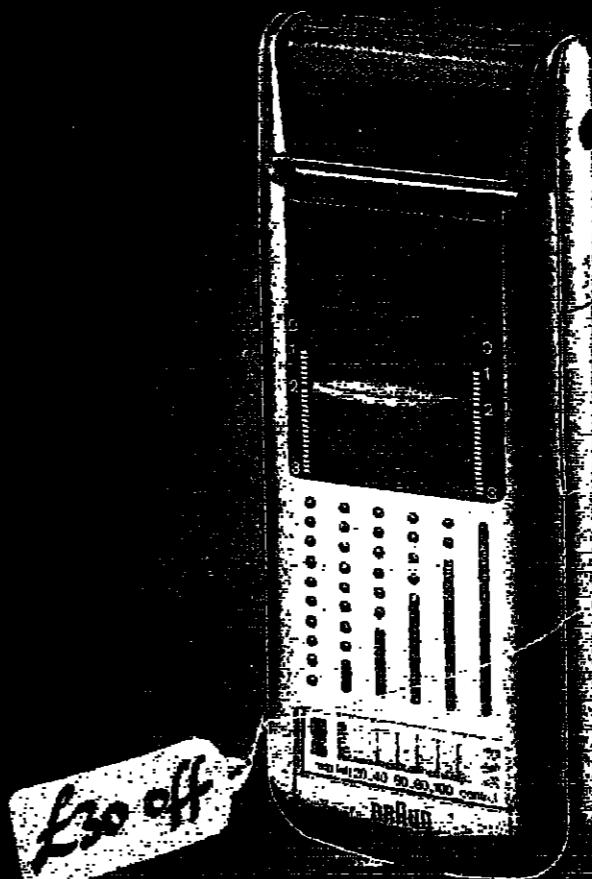
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Augusto Pinochet (left) and President Salvador Allende in 1973, 18 days before the coup in which the general took power and Allende died AP

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After the replay, lords arrange Pinochet's away match

"ESPAÑA POR FAVOR" chanted a crowd of demonstrators in Parliament Square yesterday, cheerfully putting their case that General Augusto Pinochet should be allowed to take his *con*-summitary trip to the Costa del Sol.

Inside the law lords were due to give their judgment for the second time, and many people were hoping for a repeat of the penalty shoot-out cliffhanger the previous fixture had delivered.

In the Lords, the visitors' galleries creaked under the weight of lucky ticket-holders; several of them clutching Human Rights Watch's useful team list, a fill-in-as-

you-go scorecard, adorned with pictures of their lordships and boxes in which to note which way each judgment went.

For the first two announcements it seemed as if it might actually be useful for keeping tally with Lord Goff levelling the score after an initial vote for extradition from Lord Browne-Wilkinson. After that, though, it was all downhill for the general. The point of no return passed without an audible mark and the first sound that moved the chamber was the laughter that greeted Lord Browne-Wilkinson's remark that the judgments were "incapable of being understood with-

out some explanation". After glancing through the written opinions, with their talk of "immunity ratione materiae", "the refoulement of persons" and the principle of "out decale et punire", Lord Browne-Wilkinson's crisp paraphrase was gratefully taken up.

We could have done with him half an hour later, to offer a simultaneous translation of the Deputy Prime Minister's answers as he stood in for his boss at Prime Minister's questions. Impromptu sentence construction is not one of Mr Prescott's strong points and his frail syntactical powers appear to be further sapped when he finds himself

said. Tories barked in synthetic confusion. Was there some PoW camp deep in bandit-country that they had not been told about? Mr Prescott looked testy. "I withdraw that remark. I apologise. I made a slip," he said, in a voice like fingernails raking down a blackboard.

The truth is, though, that Mr Prescott offers more slips than a lingerie department - sometimes eliding whole words ("everybody in the House feels exactly about that," he said, after a denunciation of child abuse), sometimes mispronouncing one so that the sentence twists surely in his mouth: "The average level of the Taxman has gone

down," he said, in a reply about council tax levels.

He was rescued only by the dogged solidarity of his Labour colleagues. The inevitable gibe about diving had come from Peter Lilley but Mr Prescott was prepared for it. "When I dived 80 feet," he said, "I didn't dive low enough to discover the low Tory poll rating!" This quip had surfaced so fast that it got the bends and hit the deck writhing. But the entire Parliamentary Labour Party turned out to give it mouth-to-mouth, roaring as if it was the very epitome of repartee. Mr Prescott was so cheered up he got through a whole sentence without a fluff.

THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

addressed as Prime Minister. The result is not boring, it has to be said, with some replies offering the vision of a strange parallel universe, sim-

Rebuke for Heath over advisory fees

STANDARDS
By FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent



THE FORMER prime minister Sir Edward Heath received an official rebuke yesterday for failing to declare paid advisory posts on the register of members' interests.

Sir Edward had maintained that the omission was due to a misunderstanding. But the Standards and Privileges Committee said he had ignored clear advice from Sir Gordon Downey, the former Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

The former Tory premier had reacted angrily to reports in *The Independent* on Sunday and *The Independent* that he had held undeclared paid posts with six organisations. He said there was no need to register the interests because he did not believe they would influence his actions, speeches or parliamentary votes.

Sir Edward was an adviser to the China Ocean Shipping Company, Dresden Kleinwort Benson, Arthur Andersen and the Praemium Imperiale Tokyo

Sir Edward said in a statement that he had withdrawn the advisory posts from the register as a result of a "misunderstanding" over the effect of a rule change.

"As has been made clear, I regret the misunderstanding," he said. "I have sought and am seeking neither to undermine the rules nor to win special treatment for myself."

Sir Edward had declared the advisory posts but withdrew them from his entry in the 1996 register - the first to be drawn up under the new rules in response to the report of Lord Nolan's Committee on Standards in Public Life.

In his reply to the complaint, Sir Edward - who had been a leading critic of the Nolan reforms - said none of his interests had affected his actions as an MP and he had never raised them in the House or contacted ministers about them.

Sir Edward has now reinstated the entry, adding a new post with Jardine Fleming and omitting the Varkey Academy and Dresden Kleinwort Benson because his arrangements with them have ended. Her disclosure came as

THE GOVERNMENT'S purchase of arms from paramilitary groups is being considered as an option to "oil" the decommissioning process. Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said yesterday.

Downing Street signalled that there would be "increased pressure" to reach a settlement to set up the Stormont power-sharing executive by next week.

David Trimble, the Northern Ireland First Minister, and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, are under increasing pressure to agree a compromise on Unionist demands for

decommissioning to start before Sinn Fein takes seats on the power-sharing executive.

In the Commons, Ms Mowlam said every option, including the purchase of the paramilitaries' arms, was open. Every one would be considered by the decommissioning body.

She said she planned to call a meeting of the Northern Ireland Assembly next week.

"What I want to make sure is that parties understand that, if that operates and there is not

a cross-community executive formed, if it is an executive of only one party, then you cannot devolve powers, you cannot transfer powers because it would be dysfunctional."

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, answering questions for Tony Blair who was in Berlin, dismissed Tory calls for the halting of the early release of terrorist prisoners until paramilitaries had given up their weapons. The freeing of prisoners was part of the

Good Friday peace agreement, he said, and it would be observed "with all the difficulties and all the feelings of disgust that may be felt at the time".

He said: "I find it difficult to accept that your intention apparently is to secure agreement when you talk in the language that you do."

The next few days were critical, said Mr Prescott, adding:

"We are nearer to getting agreement than we've ever been before."

Government may buy terrorist arms

ULSTER TALKS
By SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

Schools minister Charles Clarke walking tall as he launches a guide in London yesterday encouraging pupils to walk to school. Neville Elder

Labour peer supports 'regional list' for Lords

LORD RICHARD, the former Labour leader of the Lords, is on a collision course with his successor, Baroness Jay, over proposals that the reformed House of Lords should be directly elected.

The peer, who was dropped from the Cabinet by Tony Blair in a reshuffle last year, came out in favour of a regional list system, which would allow elections to the Lords, but leave the choice of elected peers to the party leaders according to their share of the vote.

Ministers are privately opposed to the idea of direct elections to the Lords on the grounds that it would challenge the authority of the Commons.

In a book to be published today, *Unfinished Business*, written with his former ministerial special adviser, Damien Welfare, Lord Richard says:

"The best system... would be that of the regional list recommended by the Plant Committee.

It enables the second chamber to be representative of the widest possible range of opinion in an area."

The Government has avoided committing itself to either appointing or electing peers to

the Lords, pending the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Lords reform, which is due to report by the end of the year.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the commission, yesterday published a consultation document, announcing plans to hold public meetings across the country in May, June and July and inviting comments on the issues.

'Unfinished Business', Ivor Richard and Damien Welfare, *Vintage Books* £1.99; *Royal Commission on the Reform of the House of Lords*, 4 Central Buildings, *Matthew Parker Street*, London SW1H 9NL

THE HOUSE



Liberia backs rebel forces

BRITAIN HAS "clear and specific" intelligence that Liberia has been supporting the rebels in neighbouring Sierra Leone with military supplies, Foreign Office whip Baroness Ramsay of Cartvalde told peers.

Police must be covered by Bill

LABOUR BACKBENCHERS demanded that the police should be covered by the forthcoming draft Freedom of Information Bill as recommended by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny in the Stephen Lawrence report.

Ironing out war pensions

THERE SHOULD be an annual debate on war pensions to iron out current anomalies in the system, Andrew Mackinlay, the Labour MP for Thurrock, urged.

Today's agenda

Commons, 11.30am: Trade and Industry questions; debate on the armed forces; short debate on British hostages murdered in Chechnya.
Lords, 3pm: Health Bill, third reading; European Parliamentary Elections (Gibraltar) Bill; debate on circumstances in which police vehicles may exceed speed limits and ignore traffic lights.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Affair evidence

THERE WAS "no evidence" that the Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, had an affair with a sixth-form pupil while they were both at Gordano School, Bristol. Estelle Morris, Education minister, said:

Fuel rise stays

THE GOVERNMENT will not withdraw Budget fuel rises because they were made on the basis of a "balanced judgement", said the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott.

Phone risks

"NO NEW scientific evidence" exists that would warrant putting a health warning on mobile phones, the Trade and Industry minister, Michael Wills, said.

MPS RECEIVING leaked copies of select committee reports

should not make use of them and should return them "without delay", the Speaker of the House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd, said yesterday.

Ms Boothroyd asked the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee to her in a letter. "The committee's view was that the fundamental responsibility of Members who received leaked copies of documents must be to act in a way not to impede the select committee," she said.

In the committee's judgement, she said, the MP should also not make use of the papers and should return them without delay. Miss Boothroyd added: "The Standards and Privileges Committee may have more to say on this subject once they have completed their inquiry."

COMMITTEE LEAKS

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

tary aide, Don Touhig, was passed a draft copy of a report from the Social Security Select Committee. MPs from all sides

have been infuriated by the disclosure of leaks, arguing that it undermines their role in scrutinising the Government.

Ms Boothroyd said the views of the Standards and Privileges Committee were indicated to her in a letter. "The committee's view was that the fundamental responsibility of Members who received leaked copies of documents must be to act in a way not to impede the select committee," she said.

In the committee's judgement, she said, the MP should also not make use of the papers and should return them without delay. Miss Boothroyd added: "The Standards and Privileges Committee may have more to say on this subject once they have completed their inquiry."





Shadow Council members Dame Judi Dench, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Alan Ayckbourn and Mark Fisher MP

Stars vow to fight for future of arts

SOME OF the nation's most glittering names in the arts accused the Government yesterday of "dumbing down" Britain's culture.

To the embarrassment of Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, sponsors of the new "Shadow Arts Council" include Oscar winner Dame Judi Dench, and the minister's former deputy, Labour MP Mark Fisher. Mr Fisher was arts minister last summer.

The criticisms of the Government—the most damning by the arts establishment for years—were made at the official launch of the Shadow Arts Council, a body of arts practitioners chaired by the theatre director Sir Peter Hall, and pledged to expose the true state of the country's arts.

The aims of the new body, published at the launch, include a clause saying: "The arts should not be confused with popular entertainment."

Explaining this, Sir Peter

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

said the Labour Government in its espousal of "Cool Britannia" concentrated on film, pop music and video, rather than theatre or opera.

"They obviously decided the arts is a vote-losing issue," he said. "What they don't understand is that if you don't teach music properly in schools there will never be another Beatles."

The Millennium Dome did not even have a theatre, he said, adding, "I don't want my children to be fed on a diet of dumbed-down international television. We still live in a country where 'intellectual' is a pejorative term. An insult. And the word artist is suspect."

The administrator of the new body is Erika Frei, an established PR administrator who is also Sir Peter Hall's mother-in-law.

Sir Peter's vice-chairmen are John Tusa, head of the

Barbican Centre, and Norman Rosenthal, exhibitions secretary of the Royal Academy. The members of the new body number over 100, and include the playwrights Sir Alan Ayckbourn, Sir Tom Stoppard and Harold Pinter, the conductors Sir Simon Rattle and Bernard Haitink, the composer Sir Harrison Birtwistle and a former head of the National Theatre, Sir Richard Eyre.

Sir Peter said the list was growing by the day. Dame Judi Dench had rung him from America after the Oscars, asking to be part of the new group. And the poet Tony Harrison had also just joined.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport said yesterday that it had already earmarked £125m more for the arts over the next three years.

The Arts Council also came under attack for carrying out government policy without making any criticism of it. The Shadow Arts Council's man-

festo said: "The Arts Council no longer fights for the arts. It is an instrument of government."

Sir Peter said the solution to the arts world's problems was the doubling of public subsidy. The Shadow Arts Council was going to be an irritant to government, he said.

He added that he hoped no one would use the phrase "whingeing hivies". But within hours of the launch, Gerry Robinson, chairman of the Arts Council, said in an acerbic response: "The important thing is that it [the new body] should be a positive affair rather than just a bit of organised whingeing."

Alan Howarth, the Arts minister, said: "Sir Peter should resist any temptation to go on to auto-whinge. To think you can snap your fingers and double the arts subsidy is not serious."

The new council claimed that 55 per cent of regional theatres are on standstill grants, and children are "not getting access to arts education".



Sir Tom Stoppard has pledged his support for the new body AP/George Widman

Royal Ballet promoter can charge what he likes

THE EXECUTIVE director of the Royal Opera House, Michael Kaiser, admitted yesterday that a commercial promoter staging a Royal Ballet season at the ROH would be able to charge whatever prices he liked.

The Independent reported

BY DAVID LISTER

yesterday that the commercial promoter, Victor Hochhauser, had been engaged by the ROH to mount a summer season of the Royal Ballet next year. It is unprecedented for a commercial promoter to present the

Royal Ballet in its own home, funded largely by national lottery money. Profits will go to the promoter rather than back into the coffers of the publicly funded institution.

Asked yesterday if the sea-

son would be subject to the ROH's new policy of reducing

prices, Mr Kaiser said that the promoter would have the final say on prices and would not have to abide by the ROH or government policy on this.

It was not yet known what the ticket price range would be.

"The seat prices are set by the promoter," Mr Kaiser told The

Independent. "They could be

higher. We will have an influence on prices, but the final say will be the promoter's."

Geoffrey O'Connell, political consultant with the Lottery Promotion Company, which monitors lottery spending, had called the decision "outra-

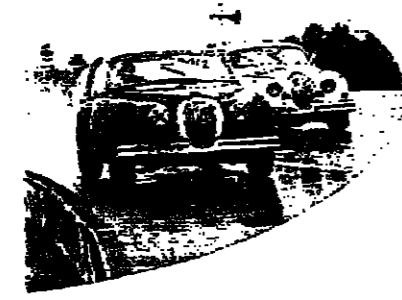
geous", saying: "The lottery was not set up to fund venture capitalism. It was meant to go to good causes."

■ The new artistic director of the Royal Opera House, Antonio Pappano, said yesterday he would be working alongside Michael Kaiser when he

arrives in 2002. Although his appointment was announced as

music director, Mr Pappano confirmed that he will be in charge of artistic policy, even though from 2002 to 2004 other commitments mean that he will be at the ROH only seven months of the year.

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Brain machine restores 'speech'

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

TWO PATIENTS who are totally paralysed and unable to talk have managed to communicate by using their brain waves to control a computer.

It is the first time that people who cannot move a single muscle have been able to express their thoughts and feelings to their friends and family.

An international team of scientists from Germany, Italy and the United States enabled the patients to train their own brain-wave patterns to control a computer spelling device.

Neils Birbaumer, a psychologist from the University of Tübingen, and his colleagues describe in the journal *Nature* how they enabled two "locked-in" patients suffering from total paralysis to communicate again after years of silence.

The system can be used by people who have no muscular control, even those who cannot control the movement of their eyes," Dr Birbaumer said.

The two patients suffer from advanced motor neuron disease and have to breathe using artificial respirators because of the complete degeneration of the nerves controlling the muscles of their bodies.

Each patient was trained to control the electrical activity of their brains, as recorded by an electroencephalogram, and to use their brain-wave patterns to control a computer program for spelling out words.

Dr Birbaumer said that it usually takes healthy patients between five and ten training sessions to control the computer's spelling accurately, using their thoughts alone.

However, it took the paralysed patients much longer, between 70 and 100 trials each lasting about five to ten minutes. "We don't know how it works. These centres in the brain for self-control are far away from the language areas," Dr Birbaumer said.

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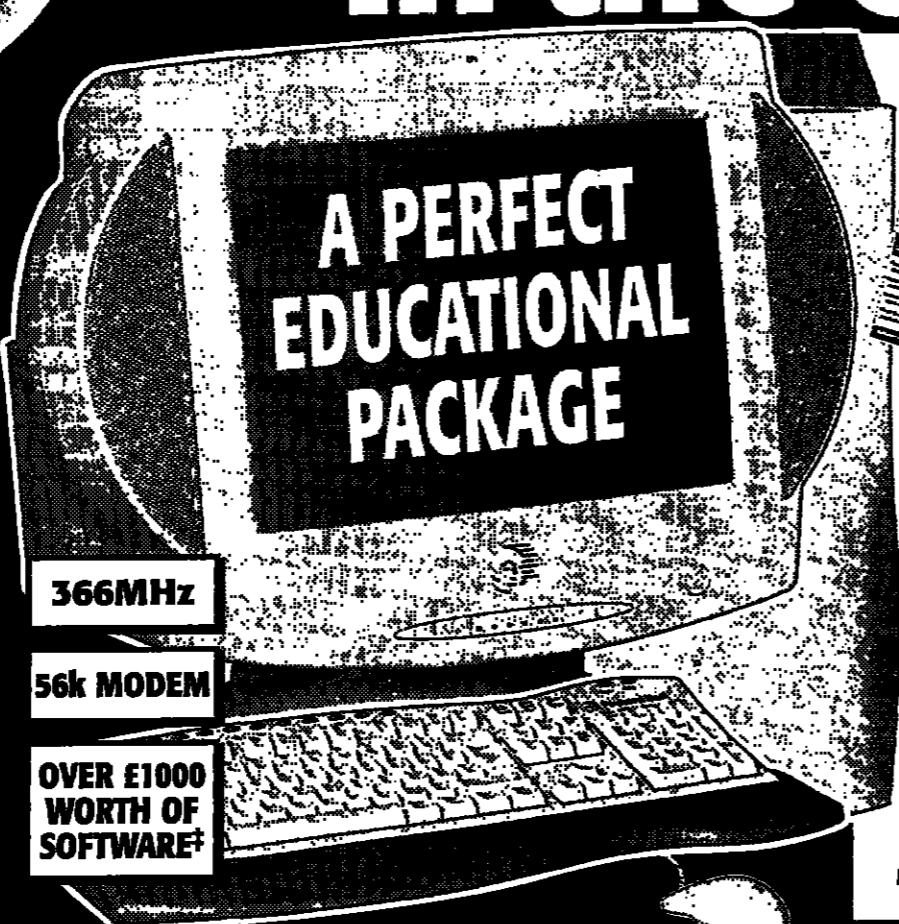
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Theft of new cars takes only seconds

MOST CARS can be broken into within a minute, making a mockery of manufacturers' pledges to improve vehicle security, a new survey has found.

Tests carried out on 50 top-selling models found that 13 cars took less than 10 seconds to gain entry to, including luxury vehicles such as a Jaguar.

The worst-performing car in the tests was a Daewoo, which took experts just 1 second to break into, while the most secure were several Volkswagen and Volvo models.

Car manufacturers have promised ministers to help to reduce vehicle crime by spending money on installing and improving security devices. In

Volkswagen VAG lock system, Range Rover and Peugeot were also praised.

The results were an improvement on a similar set of tests last year, when half of the 50 cars were broken into within 10 seconds. "This year the figures were reduced to 13 out of 50," said the magazine. "But we still got into 22 cars within 30 seconds, and five cars in under 2 seconds."

The magazine adds: "Manufacturers will protest. They will say that they are doing their best. But... the results from many make dismal reading. We are also concerned that in some areas, the lock-beating fraternity seems to be moving faster than the manufacturers."

The motor industry defended its record yesterday and argued that great improvements had been made to vehicle security, and that the tests carried out by the magazine were unfair.

Al Clarke, of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "It is one thing for skilled testers to break into cars, but consumers should look at real-life incidents."

"Most cars broken into are those left unlocked on forecourts or those with valuables on view. Thieves tend to avoid new cars and go for older ones. Even on new cars, you cannot turn them into fortresses."

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

1997, 407,000 cars were stolen, and 710,000 people had property taken from their vehicles. The Government has pledged to reduce vehicle crime by 30 per cent in the next five years.

To test whether the motor industry had improved the security on its vehicles, the magazine Auto Express employed a locksmith and a car security adviser to attempt to break into 50 cars using tools available in hardware stores.

The Daewoo Matiz was the cheapest car tested and the quickest to break into. The sad fact is that it was quicker to break in than to open it with the key. Virtually anyone could break into this in an instant, using any one of a variety of tools," said the experts.

More expensive vehicles, such as the £19,600 Honda Accord, fared little better, holding out for just 1.72 seconds. The popular Ford Fiesta took 3.5 seconds to break into.

Surprisingly two Jaguar models, the XK8 and the XJ8, which cost £42,000 and £50,700, lasted only about 10 seconds. "We find it disappointing that a £50,000 Jag could be entered more quickly than a [Ford] Cougar costing less than half that price," said the magazine.

The overall winner was the

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THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 25 March 1999

HOME NEWS/13

Viagra demand less than predicted

GOVERNMENT FORECASTS that doctors would be swamped with demands for Viagra prescriptions for recreational use rather than for impotency treatment have been challenged by research.

Of 250 GPs surveyed, only one in 15 noted an increase in the number of men with normal sexual potency seeking treatment for impotence.

The Government is proposing to restrict NHS anti-impotence treatment to men with a narrow range of medical conditions. Medical experts are alarmed, and say that 40,000 men currently receiving impotence treatment - 85 per cent of the total - could be denied it because of inaccurate estimates that Viagra could cost the NHS between £50m and £125m a year.

"These findings put to death the myth that was propagated by the Government that there would be huge numbers of men seeking treatment for erectile dysfunction when they didn't actually suffer from it," said Dr Ian Banks, British Medical Association spokesman on men's health.

"GPs are perfectly capable of diagnosing those patients who are genuinely suffering from impotence."

The consultation period for the new government proposals ends today. They would mean that men suffering from spinal cord injuries, diabetes and rare nerve disorders would be eligible for NHS treatment, while those made impotent because of cancer treatment, heart disease or psychological problems would not be.

Two surveys - one commissioned by Pfizer, the Viagra manufacturer, and the other

BY CHERRY NORTON
Health Correspondent

conducted by Mori - suggest that both public and professional opinion opposes the restrictions. Eight out of 10 adults surveyed by Mori said couples unable to have sex because of male impotence should be able to receive NHS help. More than 8 out of 10 said they thought it unfair that men who became impotent because of a spinal injury could get NHS treatment while those whose impotence was linked to cancer could not.

John Prysor, chairman of the Impotence Association and a consultant urologist, said: "Discrimination is unacceptable and we must insist that newly diagnosed sufferers and their partners receive the treatment they deserve on the NHS and that the right of those who are already receiving treatment is safeguarded."

Ben Huczak, a 46-year-old business consultant from East Sheen, south-west London, is among those who would not receive treatment under the new guidelines. He first experienced problems six years ago.

"Impotence took over nearly every aspect of my life, causing constant feelings of inadequacy and depression," he said. "Treatment has allowed me to become a functioning member of society again. I don't know what I will do if my treatment is stopped."

Dr Stephen Ladyman, Labour MP for Thanet South, said: "While the Government was right to subject these guidelines to consultation it is absolutely clear that, as they stand, they are both flawed and contradictory."

THE PUNGENT aroma of boiled cabbage, emblem of school-days, will permeate the Millennium Dome's Learn Zone.

The smell of canteens and chemistry labs, and the sound of ranting headteachers, will be combined to create a traditional educational atmosphere in a giant school corridor, said Lord Puttnam, who unveiled the zone yesterday.

The film producer, who is overseeing the construction of the Work and Learn zones as one of the dome's "godparents", said visitors will also be confronted by a "knowledge orchard" for interactive learning in the tranquil surroundings of grass and trees.

Lord Puttnam said the learning orchard, which would evoke the atmosphere of a "beautiful summer's day", will form a contrast to the traditional *Grange Hill* atmosphere of the school corridor.

Two auditoriums will each screen an eight-minute film

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

showing positive aspects of learning. He said he wanted to create a "cinematic and theatrical experience" to excite visitors about their future.

The Work and Learn zones will be the only ones to share a single structure, in an attempt

to emphasise the close relationship of work and education.

Plans for a four-storey facade to the two zones were also unveiled yesterday. The New Millennium Experience Company is describing the hoarding as the "largest billboard in the world". The facade will show images changing

every five seconds. The Learn zone will also have computers showing Internet pages created by thousands of schoolchildren in an initiative run by Tesco, the zone's sponsors.

Estelle Morris, an Education minister who was at the dome in Greenwich, south-east London, for yesterday's launch,

described the Internet initiative as "absolutely brilliant", adding: "Working on the Internet has to become the norm at every school. This gets pupils ready for the next century."

The Work zone, to be launched next month, is sponsored by the employment service company Manpower.

Cabbage smells to infuse Dome



Railway Rapist admits 9 more

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

THE NOTORIOUS Railway Rapist, already serving seven life terms for two murders and five rapes, yesterday admitted nine more rapes.

John Duffy, 40, originally sentenced in 1988, also pleaded guilty to six conspiracies to rape and two burglaries between 1975 and 1986 in London and Hertfordshire.

The Old Bailey was told he committed three rapes on Hampstead Heath in July and November 1984 and March 1985 near his home in West Hampstead, north London.

Duffy also admitted raping Ann Lock, a secretary, in May 1986. The judge ordered him to be found not guilty to her murder because of insufficient evidence.

The rape conspiracies cover October 1982 to November 1986 and centre on Hampstead and Highgate in north London.

Duffy's extensive knowledge of the railway and underground system helped him to stalk his victims and many of his crimes were committed near stations.

The fresh charges follow interviews with police in Whitemoor prison, Cambridgeshire, where Duffy is being held.

Sentencing on the fresh charges was adjourned until after Duffy appears for the prosecution in another trial.

RUC defended by minister

BY ROSIE COWAN

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday rejected calls to withdraw all RUC officers from the investigation into the murder of Rosemary Nelson, a Belfast solicitor.

Mrs Nelson's husband, Paul, demanded the move after an official report criticised the way police had investigated death threats to the lawyer before her killing. The Independent Commission on Police Complaints found officers investigating the

when dissident loyalists blew up her car in her home town of Lurgan, Co Armagh, last week.

Mr Nelson, the SDLP and Sinn Fein have all called for an independent inquiry. Many solicitors and several human rights organisations are supporting the demand.

The RUC Chief Constable, Sir Ronnie Flanagan, defended his officers, saying they were innocent until proved guilty.

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Gays target murder trial town

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

THE SMALL college town of Laramie, Wyoming, switched into a tense mini-citadel yesterday, packed with police patrols, security barriers and gay rights activists, for the trial of a man accused of beating Matthew Shepard, a young gay student, and leaving him to die, tied to a freezing fence-post.

The prosecution says Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney lured 21-year-old Shepard from the Fireside Bar in Laramie last October, pistol-whipped him then bound him to the fence miles out of town. Their girlfriends were with them. Shepard was found in a coma 18 hours later and died in hospital.

Henderson's trial starts with the jury-picking today and McKinney is being tried in August. They have already told police they pretended to be gay so they could leave the bar with Shepard and rob him. They stole his credit card, \$20 and his patent leather shoes - supposedly to make sure he could not easily get back to town.

The defendants, high-school drop-outs who worked as roof repairers, are accused of first-degree murder, kidnapping and aggravated robbery. They face the death sentence if found guilty.

Their girlfriends, who were with them throughout Shepard's ordeal, are charged with being accessories and one has already pleaded guilty.

The trial, like the murder itself, is proving traumatic for the small prairie home of the University of Wyoming - raising questions about tolerance to-



Russell Henderson, 21, Aaron McKinney, 22, and Chastity Pasley, 20 at their arraignment over the gruesome killing of Matthew Shepard (above)



Jackson
not to
run for
White
House

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

THE BLACK civil rights campaigner Rev Jesse Jackson has announced that he will not make a third run for the US presidency. His decision leaves Bill Bradley as the only declared challenger to Vice-President Al Gore for the Democratic Party's nomination, and makes it likely that there will be no black challenger.

Mr Jackson, who is 57, had explored the possibility of running again in recent months but said yesterday he had decided to devote himself instead to his campaign to improve opportunities for black and ethnic minority representation in the Wall Street financial establishment. He had told the black television network BET, at the weekend, that he did not feel "very motivated" to run. He made the decision public yesterday on the website of his son, Jesse Jackson Jr, who is an Illinois Congressman.

Mr Jackson's decision ends hopes harboured by the civil rights generation that it could provide America's first black President, and passes the baton of black representation in national politics to the next generation. This includes not only Jesse Jackson Jr, who is political heir to his father, but young black professionals of a very different stamp, such as the Republican Congressman from Oklahoma, J C Watts.

Associates of Mr Jackson insisted that he would continue to wield influence in the White House, whoever was elected to the presidency. "The Rev Jackson doesn't have to be a candidate to make an impact," one adviser said yesterday.

Mr Jackson has been a spiritual adviser to the Clinton family through the Monica Lewinsky trauma. He reportedly consulted Hillary Clinton and Chelsea on the eve of Mr Clinton's televised admission of the affair, and acted as a go-between, conveying to the media how the family was coping with the strain.

Rudder fault caused Boeing to crash, says inquiry

THE CRASH of a USAir Boeing 737 airliner near Pittsburgh in 1994 was caused by a rudder malfunction, United States officials said yesterday after a four-year investigation.

Rudder problems may also have been responsible for an earlier accident involving a United Airlines 737 in 1991.

The National Safety Transport Board unanimously

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

endorsed findings that the pilots aboard USAir Flight 427, en route from Chicago to Pittsburgh on 8 September 1994, lost control of the jet when the rudder started doing the opposite to their foot-pedal commands.

The board identified a hydraulic valve in the rudder sys-

tem that may have caused the malfunction. According to a computer reconstruction of the flight, the rudder abruptly swung to the left, flipping the plane hard to one side. When the pilot attempted to move it back to the right by applying pressure on his pedal, he was, in fact, pushing it further left.

The aircraft spiralled 6,000 feet into the ground, killing all

132 people on board. The disaster was immediately linked to the 1991 United accident, in which a Boeing 737 crashed outside Colorado Springs, killing all 25 on board. That accident was never solved, although strong winds were considered a possible factor.

In another incident in 1996 near Richmond, Virginia, the pilots of an Eastwind Airlines 737

struggled to maintain control because of rudder problems, but managed to land safely.

The board's findings could have expensive repercussions for the makers. Boeing and could trigger up to 10 new safety recommendations from the federal government. Among these could be an order that Boeing redesigns the 737 to ensure that the rudder system can

be "reliably redundant" - enabling other mechanical systems to override the rudder.

Yesterday's ruling rejected suggestions by Boeing that the USAir accident may have been caused by pilot error.

"A rudder reversal scenario will match all three events," said Dennis Crider, chairman of the board's aircraft performance group.

The investigation has been closely watched because of the worldwide popularity of the twin-engine Boeing 737. There are 3,100 of them in service, and up to 800 may be in the air at any one time. In attempting to emphasise the jet's wider safety record, Boeing has pointed out that a 737 is taking off somewhere in the world every few seconds.

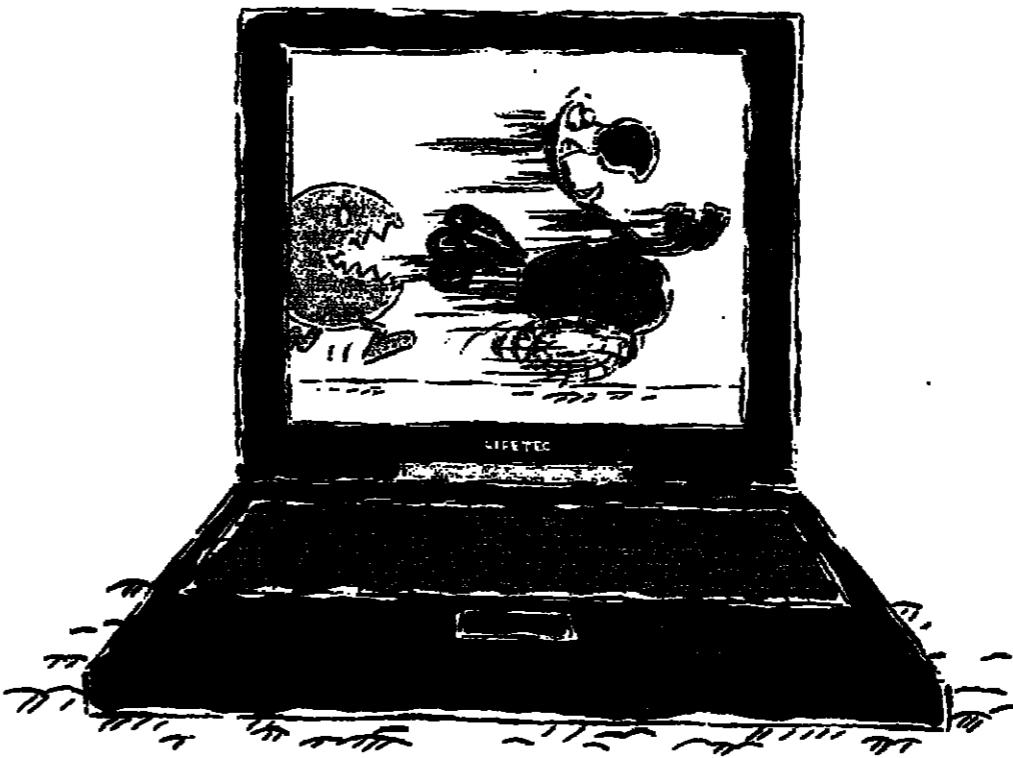
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not to
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Romano Prodi is an exponent of the 'third way', an economic liberal and an ally of Tony Blair

BERLIN SUMMIT

Prodi is chosen to clean up Brussels

EUROPE'S LEADERS moved swiftly to appoint the former Italian president, Romano Prodi, as European Commission president yesterday, but left new uncertainty about the timing of his arrival and of the departure of disgraced commissioners, including Edith Cresson.

Acting with unexpected speed, the 15 European heads of government needed only a brief discussion to confirm predictions and offer Jacques Santer's job as Commission president to Mr Prodi.

The German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, who chaired the meeting, hailed the appointment as a success, arguing that "as a result of this very rapid and unanimous decision it has become clear that the council of the EU can act".

Mr Prodi, who was prime minister of Italy until last autumn when his Olive Tree coalition government fell, will hold talks with the leaders of the 15 governments next month to discuss his programme to clean up Brussels.

Yesterday's deal - a public relations coup for the German presidency of the EU - emerged after three other contenders - Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister; Antonio Guterres, the Portuguese Prime Minister; and Javier Solana, Nato Secretary-General - fell by the wayside.

The leaders failed to address the problems involved in keeping the caretaker commission, which may legally be obliged to continue in office until it is formally replaced. Because of the speed with which yesterday's decision was made, the heads of government had insufficient time to get a legal opinion on how to proceed.

Tony Blair's spokesman said:

"We are still a bit unclear about how it is going to work but it should not be beyond the wit of the great and good to figure it out. The important thing is we have got a real political heavyweight with an agreed mandate for reform."

One scenario is that Mr Santer, who has announced plans to stand as an MEP, would step down from his Brussels post immediately, leaving the Com-

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
AND KATHERINE BUTLER
in Berlin

discredited colleagues. That would leave the remaining commissioners in post at least until the summer.

This scenario is fraught with difficulties, with no sign that Ms Cresson, the education and training commissioner, would allow herself to be singled out for harsh treatment. Some countries, including Britain, have said they intend to nominate their commissioners until the end of the year when their term of office was due to expire.

The German Chancellor praised a plan put forward by the Benelux countries, which would involve Mr Prodi in consultations with the national governments about which members of the current commission should be invited to serve until the end of the year, and on how to proceed with an overhaul of the Commission.

The appointment of Mr Prodi was widely welcomed by MEPs yesterday. Mr Prodi himself, in Frankfurt, on a scheduled visit, said the job would be a "great challenge", adding that "there is also enormous satisfaction for my country that there was unanimity".

The former Italian prime minister said the next few weeks would be dedicated to preparing a "five-year programme for the new Europe".

Hamish McRae, Review page 4



Schröder: Hailed success

mission temporarily without a president. He may go on an extended Easter break and not return to his office.

Challenged about the timing

of Mr Prodi's installation, Mr Schröder said: "That depends on the decision of the parliament." If Mr Prodi does, as expected, take over before July, he faces two screening processes: the first by the current parliament, the second by the new one after European elections in June. There remains a separate and more complex question mark over the Commission, with several member states wanting the rapid departure of Ms Cresson, and perhaps other

Italian statesman willing to do deals

WITHIN MINUTES of Romano Prodi's nomination as the president of the European Commission, Downing Street had issued a statement praising his track record as a former industrialist, an economic liberal and even an arch-privatiser.

It may be a rather selective summary of Mr Prodi's career, but it illustrates the political complexity of the man who was yesterday catapulted into one of Europe's top jobs. On the one hand, the 59-year-old former Italian premier does not belong to the socialist political family that now claims the allegiance of 11 of the 15 EU premiers. But on the other, he has been a leading exponent of efforts to redefine democratic socialism through the "third way" - and last year shared a platform at a seminar on the subject in Washington with Bill Clinton and Tony Blair.

Mr Prodi and Mr Blair are good enough allies to have shared a shirt-sleeved meal last summer during the annual Blair holiday in Tuscany.

BY FRANCES KENNEDY
in Rome
AND STEPHEN CASTLE

There is more than politics in common: Mr Blair loves Italy, and Mr Prodi can count a spell at the London School of Economics on his impressive academic curriculum vitae.

Known as "Il Professore", and seemingly uninterested in the trappings of high office, Mr Prodi has many of the qualities that could symbolise a new start in Brussels. He is personable and down-to-earth and, during his domestic political battle with the multi-millionaire Silvio Berlusconi, was often pictured cycling through the Italian countryside. While his rival used a private helicopter, Mr Prodi took the train.

Sandwiched between Mr Berlusconi's Forza Italia and a left that included the former Communist Party, Mr Prodi was ideally placed to front the centre-left Olive Tree Coalition, which came to power in 1996 and fell last autumn. In

Italian terms, that counts as a long stretch in power, which some feel bodes well for a man who has many a compromise to broker in his new hot seat.

As head of the coalition in 1996, he toured 100 towns in a bus to find out what Italians really wanted from their leaders, a move that struck Italians as naive but worthy.

His chubby face and Bolognese roots quickly earned him the nickname "Mortadella" - after the famous sausage.

Twice his government was brought to the brink of collapse but survived. On the third occasion, Mr Prodi resigned rather than cut a compromising political deal. He has made no secret of his regret at leaving the prime minister's office and last month formed a new political force, Democratic per l'Urss, to contest the European elections. He teamed up with the anti-graft prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro and the mayors of 100 cities in a political initiative that has not pleased the Prime Minister, Massimo D'Alema.

Blair to clinch rebate

TONY BLAIR is today expected to secure an agreement safeguarding Britain's £2bn annual EU budget rebate, a political concession designed to help him to smooth the path to British membership of the single currency.

European leaders meeting in Berlin are expected to agree on a seven-year reorganisation of the Union's finances, aimed at preparing for enlargement to eastern Europe. The latest attack on the British rebate, won by Margaret Thatcher in 1984, has been going on since negotiations on future financing began more than a year ago.

BY STEPHEN CASTLE AND
KATHERINE BUTLER

But draft conclusions for a final agreement, tabled by the German EU presidency yesterday, conceded the principle that the British rebate will remain.

Mr Blair and his EU counterparts were still haggling last night over the terms of "adjustments" to the rebate, which could reduce its value by up to £450m annually.

Britain has virtually agreed to surrender gains from two forthcoming EU policy reforms: the shift in the way contributions to the budget are calculated from VAT to GNP and moves to allow countries to retain more of the customs duties they normally pass on to Brussels. These add up to nearly £150m a year.

Yesterday, the Government's spokesman conceded that Mr Blair could sign up to a deal as long as it did not leave Britain worse off. He said: "If the system is changed in a way that would give us not a penny more or less than's fine. We have no problem with that."

Germany, however, was still demanding that Britain share the burden of the rebate. That could add £300m to Britain's bill.

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Boesak gets six years in jail for charity fraud

A LAST-MINUTE plea for clemency by Archbishop Desmond Tutu was not enough to save Allan Boesak, one of the heroes of the anti-apartheid struggle, from being sentenced yesterday to a six-year jail term for fraud and theft.

Boesak, 53, the former head of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, fought back tears in Cape Town High Court as Judge John Foxcroft delivered sentence. Last week the court found the former church minister guilty of taking 1.3 million rands given by the singer-songwriter Paul Simon and the Swedish aid organisation Sida to Boesak's Foundation for Peace and Justice.

"My innocence is not touched in one way or another by the conviction of this court," said Boesak as he left court with his wife, Elma, and son, Allan Jr. Boesak will remain free for 21 days while his lawyer, Mike Maritz, fights for an appeal. Judge Foxcroft turned down the initial application yesterday.

"The last word is not spoken. The same god that has carried me this far will carry me further," he said to cheers from supporters outside the court.

The trial, which dragged on

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH
in Johannesburg

for most of last year due to arguments over legal aid, heard that Boesak had acquired a taste for luxury during the late Eighties, leading him to abuse his high moral standing.

Boesak, whose Foundation for Peace and Justice (FPJ) was set up, in part, to help orphans and other child victims of the struggle, gained fame as a charismatic speaker.

In the days of "struggle bookkeeping" - when funds and their donors had to be concealed from the authorities - Boesak was able to attract large foreign contributions, including from Sida and Simon.

Judge Foxcroft conceded yesterday that Boesak "played an important part in ridding South Africa of the hated system of apartheid", but said a lenient sentence would mean "the administration of justice could fall into disrepute".

■ Wouter Basson, the South African scientist who led the apartheid era's chemical and biological warfare programme, will stand trial on 4 October on a range of charges, including murder, fraud and theft.

The court heard that Basson gave only 423,000 rands to the FPJ, keeping the balance for himself - which helped him to buy two houses in white Cape Town suburbs.

Despite the court evidence,

32 die in Kenyan train crash

AT LEAST 32 people, including five foreign tourists, died when a train travelling from the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, to the coastal city of Mombasa derailed yesterday.

Police said about 100 people were injured in the accident, which happened 200 miles south-east of Nairobi. Unconfirmed reports said two French

BY MARCUS TANNER

nationals were among the dead. Nairobi hospital said nine French, eight British and four Kenyans, some in a serious condition, had been admitted.

Survivors said the train appeared to be travelling far too fast. They had to climb out of carriage windows, as the doors

were locked, and then walk a mile to the main Nairobi-Mombasa road where Chinese workers carrying out road repairs were the first to come to the help of victims.

The 310-mile train trip between Nairobi and Mombasa through Tsavo National Park is popular with tourists and regular travellers.



Parisians pass by the Big Horn series, which has been described by some as half-way between Rodin and the wax works

Reuters

Big Horn battles against the elements

ASIOUX warrior on horseback, tramples a fallen cavalryman; a coal barge passes underneath. As General George Armstrong Custer breathes his last, the cathedral of Notre Dame gleams in the distance.

For the next eight weeks, one of the most startling and moving art exhibitions in Paris can be found, in the open-air and free, on a bridge over the Seine. The centrepiece is a frieze of 23 larger than life human figures and eight horses, retelling the story of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. The figures form the largest

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

work attempted by the Senegalese sculptor Ousmane Sow, best known for his representations, at once stylised and lifelike, of African tribal figures and groups. The exhibition, on the Pont des Arts, a pedestrian trestle bridge linking the Louvre and the Académie Française, also contains a score of his earlier sculptures of Nubians, the Masai and his own ethnic group, the Peuls.

Sow, 64, was a kinesitherapist - for 30 years before putting to use his intimate knowledge of the human body in a different way, as a professional sculptor. He has never trained as an artist; he refuses to use live models; he fashions his figures from his own secret mixture of materials, including sacking, earth and industrial glues.

Judgements on the results are variable. One critic described the Big Horn series as "half-way between Rodin and the wax works... three-dimensional cartoon strip." Le Monde saluted Sow as one of

the world's greatest living sculptors. All the figures in the Big Horn frieze, whether native Americans or troopers, have a vague African look. Sow says this is deliberate: he is not taking one racial side or another, just capturing the human instinct to resist oppression.

He says his sculptures express the "energy" and "movement" of the human form. They are not precise representations. "I find the scrubbed, shining finish of certain Greek sculptures rarely moves me... If you wanted precision, you could copy the wooden horses from roundabouts. They are perfect but have no life, no depth."

The figures are built up in layers, papier mache-style, using sacking around metal frames. But the sculptor declines to reveal the formula for the paste he uses. He insists that the finished sculptures can withstand the elements just as successfully as statues made from stone or bronze. He may have to revise this judgement. After a few days exposed to the spring weather of Paris, the Seventh Cavalrymen, Sioux and Cheyenne warriors are receiving a little, light first aid.



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Strikers bring Israel to standstill

ISRAEL WAS largely crippled yesterday by a strike of public-sector workers demanding a wage rise matching the rate of inflation.

The walkout by 400,000 workers closed seaports and post offices, religious councils and kindergartens.

Several radio and television channels went off the air and flights were delayed or cancelled at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv.

The state telephone company, ambulances and electrical workers are operating what is known as a "Sabbath schedule". Experience last week shows this means the country's telecommunications face rapid paralysis because no repairs are being done.

The strike call by the Histadrut labour federation is part of a campaign to win an 8.1 per cent wage increase, in line with the inflation rate. The treasury is offering just 3.81 per cent.

The timing of the strike has much to do with Israel's upcoming election on 17 May. The strikers sense this is a good moment to emphasise their grievances and try to strike a deal with the government.

"They say they are losing out if the dispersal of pre-election gifts to many sectors, from Jewish immigrants from Russia to the ultra-orthodox.

Amir Peretz, the Histadrut chairman, said: "After the government gave away millions to various special interest groups, they're trying to regain their credibility on the backs of the workers."

Mr Peretz made a sharp attack on Benjamin Netanyahu,

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

the Israeli leader, saying: "The Prime Minister has put himself on the side of the country's rich and is ignoring the plight of the workers whose wages have been eroded."

The government is saying Mr Peretz is making unreasonable demands for political motives. He has founded his own party to represent workers' interests and he intends to contest the election for the Israeli parliament.

There is no doubt wage disparities have increased in Israel in the Nineties. None of the main political parties represents the interests of wage earners, being mainly concerned with meeting the needs of the religious or ethnic groups that support them.

Unless negotiations succeed the strike will continue up to the Passover holiday next week, when the country comes to its usual halt.

What is unclear is how the strike will affect the general election, but a poll in yesterday's edition of the daily newspaper *Ma'ariv* shows 61 per cent of Israelis believe the strike was initiated for political reasons, and only 25 per cent believe Mr Peretz is leading the strike to benefit the workers.

Sima Kadmon, an Israeli commentator, said Mr Peretz's "biggest problem is that even if he is conducting an innocent and just battle for the workers' sake there isn't a single person around who believes that he is battling for them and not for himself".

Protesters injured in clashes with police in Asuncion

Ceferino Recalde/AFP

Chaos after Paraguay killing

IN AN atmosphere of growing tension and political chaos, Paraguay yesterday prepared to bury its Vice-President, Luis Maria Argana, who was assassinated on Tuesday.

The main trade union announced an indefinite general strike in an attempt to force the resignation of President Raul Cubas, Mr Argana's main po-

BY JOSE MARIA AMARILLA
in Asuncion

litical rival. About 10,000 rural workers were expected to join the general strike. The Vice-President's family blame the President for the murder.

With troops already stationed in the streets of the capital, Asuncion, there were

reports that the President was planning to declare a state of emergency. Mr Argana, 66, died when three or four men in military dress stopped his car in Asuncion and sprayed it with bullets. There were clashes on Tuesday when 5,000 people marched on parliament to demand the President's resignation. (Reuters)



A murder that left so many questions

FRONTLINE
JERUSALEM

NAEELA HAMDAN AYED, a Palestinian health expert from Ras al-Amud in East Jerusalem, was having a busy morning on 11 February. She took a taxi to an insurance office on Jaffa road in Jewish West Jerusalem at about nine o'clock and decided to walk back to the Palestinian part of the city for a hairdresser's appointment at 10am.

Her quickest route lay through Elisha Street, a narrow lane through the Jewish district of Musrara. It runs down hill to the Damascus Gate entrance into the old city of Jerusalem and is often used by Palestinians on their way to the City hall.

She never reached the end of the road. No witnesses have come forward but, judging from the blood stains, she was attacked by somebody with a knife outside the steel door of 11 Elisha Street. Stabbed in the body, she staggered into the middle of the road and died.

Elisha Street also houses the *Independent* office where I have worked for the past four years. The first I knew of the murder was when I saw policemen and neighbours gathered around a body at the end of the street.

The first thought that came to mind was that the serial stabbler who preys on Palestinians walking through West Jerusalem had struck again. In the past year he has killed two people with a knife and wounded half-a-dozen. Detectives briefly had the same idea. But the case then took a strange twist. About five hours after the murder, a 22-year-old Palestinian named Mohammed Shalaan went up to an Israeli checkpoint to the east of Jerusalem and told the Israeli policemen: "I'm the man who stabbed the woman this morning."

"I thought she was a Jewess, so I murdered her," he told the detectives. "I bought the knife in a supermarket he had a bomb.

Taha Shalaan, the father of the alleged killer, says: "Mohammed didn't do it. He was having breakfast with me when the murder took place."

An unemployed labour living in a poor house in the Palestinian township of Abu Dis, Mr Shalaan is almost bent over with sorrow at his son's arrest.

He has no explanation for Mohammed's confession. He says: "I don't have enough money for a lawyer; I can't even pay the rent."

In a city as riven by hatred between Israelis and Palestinians as Jerusalem, each side has a different view of what had happened. The Is-

raeli police are satisfied by Mohammed Shalaan's confession and have handed the papers on the case to the prosecutor. Many Palestinians are suspicious of the speed with which the police dismissed the theory that Ms Ayed was murdered by a Jewish serial killer.

Palestinian misgivings are in part the fruit of a desire not to believe that somebody such as Naela Ayed, a specialist in health and nursing with a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University in the United States, should have been stabbed to death by a fellow Palestinian.

Ms Ayed, 48, spoke English, German and Arabic and had degrees from three American universities. She had turned down job offers in the US and the Gulf to return to Jerusalem to try to improve the health of fellow Palestinians.

"I don't want to idealise her, but she felt what she did was important," says Maher Hamdan, Ms Ayed's brother. He said she had a deep feeling for Jerusalem. "When it is threatened, Jerusalem needs its people so much," says Mr Hamdan. "There is so much passion about the place. She had many offers of jobs in the Gulf but she had a big sense of belonging here."

He is suspicious of the circumstances surrounding his sister's murder. Why were there no witnesses in a normally busy street? Why have the Israeli police done so little to find the serial killer of Palestinians? According to Mohammed Shalaan's father, the alleged killer knew an Israeli intelligence officer; so could the confession be a put-up job?

None of these questions will be answered to the satisfaction of everybody in Jerusalem. The residents of Elisha Street are already forgetting the killing that took place at the end of the road.

PATRICK COCKBURN



Naela Ayed: Worked for the health of Palestinians

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Stanley bids £80m for Capital

STANLEY LEISURE, the casino and betting shop owner, yesterday launched an £80m takeover bid for rival gaming group Capital Corp. Shares in Capital rose 12.5 per cent to 75p. Shares in Stanley rose 10.5p to 294p after it said it had approached Capital in an effort to win approval for the bid. Capital said it was considering the offer. Capital this month reported a 63 per cent fall in 1998 pre-tax profits, hit by a slump in the numbers of travelling Middle Eastern and Far East businessmen. It has already rejected offers from another rival, London Clubs International, and a number of unnamed bidders.

Cohen lifts Dow Jones target



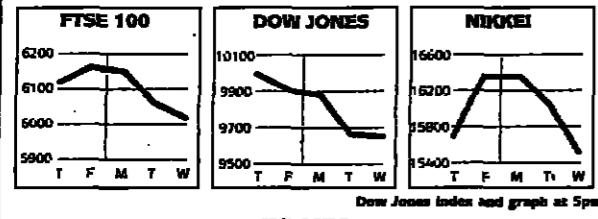
ABBY COHEN, Goldman Sachs' chief strategist and famed stock market bull Gelt, has lifted her 12-month target for the Dow Jones index. Ms Cohen, who correctly predicted that the Dow would breach 10,000 within a year of last autumn's stock market correction, said the Dow would hit 10,300 within the next twelve months.

However, she cut her 1999 profit forecasts for companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index by \$3.50 to \$49 a share. Yesterday, the Dow, which suffered heavy losses on Tuesday amid worries over the profit outlook, was treading water. By the early afternoon it was trading down 17.48 points at 9654.35.

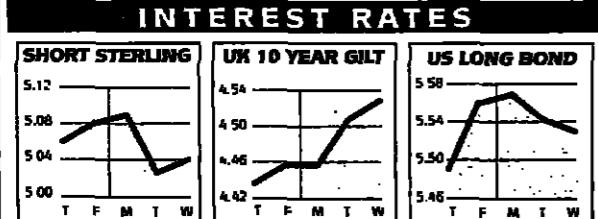
Canary Wharf shares: 320p-330p

CANARY WHARF will announce a share price of 320p-330p today, valuing the London Docklands development at over £2bn. The company aims to sell a 25 per cent stake to raise roughly £50m. Sources close to the bookbuilders to the float, Morgan Stanley and Cazenove, say the institutional placing has been more than twice subscribed. The pricing range was set at the beginning of the month at 280p to 350p per share. Dealing in the shares will start on 6 April.

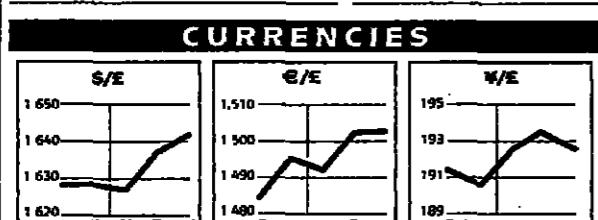
STOCK MARKETS



INDICES									
Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)			
FTSE 100	6016.70	-0.43	-0.72	6365.90	4999.20	2.60			
FTSE 250	5435.50	-0.10	-0.73	5970.90	4247.60	3.08			
FTSE 350	2876.10	-21.00	-0.73	3024.90	2210.40	2.68			
FTSE All Share	2787.66	-20.10	-0.72	2923.88	2143.53	2.73			
FTSE SmallCap	2382.00	-13.10	-0.55	2793.88	1834.40	3.66			
FTSE Fledgling	1289.70	-8.10	-0.62	1517.10	1046.20	4.12			
FTSE AIM	850.90	-0.30	-0.40	1146.90	761.30	1.16			
FTSE Eurotop 100	2809.13	-29.20	-1.03	3079.27	2018.15	2.08			
FTSE Eurotop 300	1217.39	-11.43	-0.93	1332.07	880.63	1.99			
Dow Jones	9567.39	-6.66	-0.07	10085.31	7400.30	1.64			
Nikkei	15515.47	-508.63	-3.14	17111.50	12767.90	0.90			
Hang Seng	10711.34	-329.67	-2.99	11926.16	6544.79	3.33			
Dax	4780.13	-134.90	-2.75	6217.83	3833.71	1.80			
S&P 500	1260.51	-1.38	-0.11	1333.88	923.32	1.27			
Nasdaq	2325.14	3.40	0.15	2533.44	1357.09	0.29			
Toronto 300	6501.40	19.57	0.30	7637.70	5320.90	1.63			
Brazil Bovespa	10548.36	131.41	1.26	12339.14	4575.69	5.14			
Belgium Bel20	3165.75	-68.85	-1.52	3713.21	2696.26	2.08			
Amsterdam Exch	525.73	-6.95	-1.31	606.65	365.58	1.86			
France CAC 40	4058.16	-21.31	-0.52	4404.94	2881.21	1.78			
Milan MIB30	35512.00	-407.00	-1.13	39170.00	24175.00	1.09			
Madrid Ibex 35	9720.70	-7.70	-0.08	10889.80	6869.90	1.80			
Irish Overall	5303.98	-65.14	-1.21	5581.70	3732.57	1.57			
S Korea Comp	611.48	-2.86	-0.47	651.95	277.37	1.00			
Australia ASX	2965.70	-21.90	-0.73	3005.20	2386.70	3.14			



BOND YIELDS									
Index	3 months	Yr deg	1 Year	Yr deg	10 year	Yr deg	Long bond	Yr deg	
UK	5.35	-2.21	5.25	-2.31	4.53	-1.38	4.49	-2.60	
US	5.00	-0.69	5.28	-0.53	5.16	-0.41	5.53	-0.95	
Japan	0.19	-0.51	0.25	-0.41	1.87	-0.08	2.57	-0.32	
Germany	3.01	-0.51	3.01	-0.78	4.00	-0.86	4.97	-0.45	



CURRENCIES									
Index	\$/E	E/£	W/E	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6413	+0.28c	1.6733	1.510	-1.510	-1.510	1.640	-1.640	-1.640
Euro	1.5025	+0.18c	1.4078	1.490	-1.490	-1.490	1.480	-1.480	-1.480
Yen	182.98	-0.83	218.05	171.31	-171.31	-171.31	170.72	-170.72	-170.72
Euro	103.89	+0.60	107.80	107.20	-0.30	-0.30	107.50	-0.50	-0.50

OTHER INDICATORS									
Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	13.59	-0.16	14.13	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	-0.72	112.04
Gold (\$)	284.50	-0.40	299.85	RPI	163.70	2.10	160.33	-0.20	160.33
Silver (\$)	5.10	-0.04	6.46	Base Rates	5.50	7.25			

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SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.4781	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.56
Austria (schillings)	20.02	Netherlands (guilder)	3.2088
Belgium (francs)	58.86	New Zealand (\$)	2.9196
Canada (\$)	2.4051	Norway (krone)	12.36
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8414	Portugal (escudos)	290.72
Denmark (krone)	10.89	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9658
Finland (markka)	6.6887	Singapore (\$)	2.6841
France (francs)	9.5560	South Africa (rand)	9.8328
Germany (marks)	2.6584	Spain (pesetas)	241.75
Greece (drachma)	473.04	Sweden (koron)	13.15
Hong Kong (\$)	12.30	Switzerland (francs)	2.3303
Ireland (pounds)	1.1459	Thailand (bahts)	55.52
Indian (rupees)	62.41	Turkey (liras)	578582
Israel (shekels)	6.0859	USA (\$)	1.5994
Italy (lira)	2835		
Japan (yen)	188.92		
Malaysia (ringgit)	5.9660		
Malta (lira)	0.6231		

Rates for Indication purposes only

Derek Pain, page 23

Source: Thomas Cook

Export collapse pushes UK into record £2.8bn deficit

BY LEA PATERSON

THE UK

Trade gap is a symptom of strength

DOOM AND her sister gloom were much in evidence yesterday in the reaction to the latest figures for UK trade. The January deficit on trade in goods was a record, and the traditional surplus on services is deteriorating fast. British exporters are faced now with a double whammy: the strong pound (doom) and recession in many export markets (gloom).

Kenwood's half-year loss acted as a sharp reminder of the toll the economic situation is starting to take on manufacturers. It sells into markets particularly hard hit by the global economic crisis, and sells at a price the current exchange rate has put out of reach of many customers.

The pound, after a winter dip, is heading back up. So far this year it has gained 3.5 per cent in trade-weighted terms. This is bad for the US, with its rip-roaring economy, is also experiencing a strong currency and record shortfalls between exports and imports anyone doubt that the US, but nobody would doubt it is in rather healthier condition than Continental Europe, which used to open up the trade gap.

Not everything about a big trade deficit is negative. Consumers get more choice, and it helps to keep inflation low and make industry more competitive and innovative.

However, there is another way to



OUTLOOK

look at the trade gap – as a symptom of strength rather than weakness.

The UK, with moderate growth and a trade deficit, is in better shape than Germany, with no growth and a trade surplus at the moment.

The US, with its rip-roaring economy, is also experiencing a strong currency and record shortfalls between exports and imports anyone doubt that the US, but nobody would doubt it is in rather healthier condition than Continental Europe, which used to open up the trade gap.

Not everything about a big trade deficit is negative. Consumers get more choice, and it helps to keep inflation low and make industry more competitive and innovative.

Even so, the present situation is plainly not an ideal one. Ideally, Europe would be doing better and importing more, and Japan and the rest of Asia would be climbing out of recession. There is a serious imbalance between the Anglo-Saxon economies and the rest, which is spilling over into the balance of payments.

Trade is the most reliable symptom of sickness in the global economy. Right now there are symptoms galore, both in the widening US and UK deficits, and the recent escalation of trade tensions. We should not be parochial in our gloom and doom.

But neither should we be unduly down in the dumps about it all. Britain's monthly trade gap has never been bigger in absolute terms, but it remains a quite small proportion of GDP which is largely offset by a surplus on investment. The situation was much grimmer in the past, when it was the weakness of the UK economy not its trading partners, which used to open up the trade gap.

Judging by the effect on dear old WH Smith yesterday, more should try it. Its more than woolly announcement about teaming up with BT and Microsoft to launch another "free" Internet service provider was sufficient to propel the share price 11.4 per cent higher. Since Dixons launched Freeserve last September, the Dixons share price has more than doubled.

Prospects for Dixons' core retailing business have improved a bit since then, but the bulk of this stellar performance is accounted for by Freeserve. Billions have been added to Dixons' market capitalisation courtesy of this new Internet service. Now WH Smith is hoping to repeat the trick. But as the stock market correctly surmised by marking the Dixons share price down by an equal and opposite amount in response to the WH Smith announcement, not everyone can win in this market.

Few people these days doubt the Internet's power to transform industry, or its vast commercial potential. But actually making money out of it is a different issue, and actually these British retailer based free Internet service providers seem rather less likely to

make good profits out of the Web than most.

As Dixons has proved, retail networks provide a powerful motor for adding subscribers, but as the service is free, having more subscribers doesn't necessarily earn you more revenue. Nor does using the Net to flag your own products help the bottom line much, since the effect is merely to cannibalise existing sales.

WH Smith's Richard Handover was yesterday waxing lyrical about the importance of establishing his service as a fully fledged "portal". Certainly this offers the most likely pathway to profit, since the most successful portals ought eventually to be able to attract very considerable advertising revenue.

The trouble is that this is a fast moving industry and the competition – Yahoo!, Excite, and the like – have quite a heads start. Keeping the millions of non paying customers these new free services attract eyeballed to their own home pages is going to be a challenge most will fail to meet. As a consequence, it is hard to see how the valuations the stock market is attaching to these services can ever be justified.

One2One

FEEL LIKE an Ein Zwei Ein with Britain's number four mobile phone operator? What about an Un Deux Un? Confirmation that One2One has been put on the block by its joint owners, Cable & Wireless and MediaOne, has got the phones ringing hot around Europe as well as in the US. A Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom will just have to be patient, along with Bell Atlantic, and wait for a connection.

Forget the awkward fact that One2One has never made a profit, or that it is saddled with £1.7bn of debt, or that it is the smallest player with a poor record of service quality in a viciously competitive market. This is the world of cellular; where every figure is as long as a telephone number; especially the valuations.

The most extreme of these puts a price tag of £1bn on One2One, based on subscriber numbers doubling in the next year and six in 10 homes owning a mobile by 2004. But even at the bottom end of the range (£7.5bn), it would be a large amount, and a painfully dilutive one at that, for all but the biggest player. The management cannot say so

but they must be praying for a stock market flotation instead. C&W and MediaOne seem to have been supportive, understanding owners. But who can vouch for the French or Germans? Anyway, think of all the freedom, not to mention all those lovely share options, a listing would bring.

One glance at the runaway performance of the Orange share price would tempt the two owners to the same conclusion. The snag is that they would both need to retain sizeable stakes, at least in the short to medium term, and there's no evidence they want to do this.

C&W sees its future in fixed-line telecoms and would probably like to exit the mobile sector altogether. Certainly it has plenty to spend the proceeds on – building out its European network and consolidating the US business it acquired through the internet deal with MCI for a start. It is also doubtful whether the distraction of owning a (comparatively) small overseas mobile interest forms any part of the master plan of Comcast, the cable giant busy swallowing up MediaOne. So a trade sale seems more likely. Whatever the outcome Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers have plenty to get their teeth into in the next few months.

Independent Newspapers upbeat

BY OUR CITY STAFF

INDEPENDENT Newspapers, the Ireland-based international media group that owns *The Independent* and *The Sunday Independent*, was in upbeat mood yesterday as it announced that currency weakness in New Zealand and South Africa prompted a profit downturn in the year just past.

Liam Healy, chief executive, said the group's strategic market positions, improved economic and currency trends, and the major cost reduction programme now being implemented, position the group well for the current year.

Pre-tax profits fell from IR£100.1m (£85m) to IR£67.0m last year, after taking account of big provisions for restructuring. At the operating level,

profits were only marginally lower and would have been some 3.6 per cent ahead but for currency weakness in key territories.

Commenting on the results, Dr AJF O'Reilly, chairman, said that more favourable currency conditions, renewed economic confidence and the positive impact of the cost-restructuring programme would have a favourable impact on results as the present year progresses.

"We are moving to 100 per cent ownership in South Africa, we have increased our shareholding in Australia to 41.6 per cent and have launched Independent Digital to capture the group's potential in the electronic arena", he

said. "In the circumstances of the year under review, we achieved very worthwhile results and this is reflected in the enhanced dividend payment to shareholders", Dr O'Reilly added.

A second interim dividend of 18.6p per share is to be paid, raising the total for the year by 15.4 per cent to 18.6p.

In the UK, operating losses were reduced to £0.9m from £1.6m the year before. In its results statement, the group said that the move to 100 per cent ownership of the Independent titles had enabled it to revitalise one of the great newspaper brands in the world.

Already, this investment was being recognised in awards, including Editor of the Year to Simon Keiner of

The Independent. In addition, recent ABC circulation figures confirm the first year-on-year increase for more than three years to 220,000 for the daily and 252,000 for the Sunday, with further improvements anticipated in the coming months.

"Under our full control, losses at the Independent titles have reduced significantly and we are increasingly confident of achieving the three-year target of break-even we set in March", the company said.

The group plans, through the creation of Independent Digital, to consolidate and enhance its existing Internet-related activities and to develop a coherent infrastructure for them across world-wide operations.



Liam Healy: Group in good position for current year

Fleming reshuffles to give Asia operations a boost

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

ROBERT FLEMING, one of the City's last independently owned investment banks, is today announcing a new management structure which will give a bigger role to the bank's Asian operations but may also put a question mark over the future of Save & Prosper, its 26m retail unit trust operation.

The business, which is headed by the former chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, Colette Bowe, is to be partially sidelined in the management reshuffle in a move which, some say, may pave the way for the eventual sale of the business.

The bank told potential buyers as recently as last September that the Save & Prosper business was not up for sale.

Fleming's partner in Jardine Fleming, the Hong Kong investment bank, William Garrett, the chief executive of Robert Fleming, is keen to demonstrate that the bank has a strong platform for developing the bank's corporate finance business in Asia.

Although some within the bank are still pressuring for the bank as a whole to be put up for sale, on a longer term view Asia would offer huge potential for the bank.

However, there is a debate within the firm about whether it can continue funding the expansion of the investment bank and invest enough in the retail business to remain competitive at a time when the savings market is on the brink of fun-

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Having a One2One with the market

News Analysis: The UK's fourth largest mobile phone company is up for flotation, if another telecom group doesn't buy it first

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

shareholders and they have an obligation to maximise shareholder value."

Nor did he stress a preference for a US or European owner should One2One be sold to a trade buyer. "From my perspective, the support they give One2One is more important than where they come from. We are not going to change our strategy one iota."

That strategy, engraved on the company since it began operations in September 1993, has been to transform the mobile phone from a business tool into something with genuine mass-market appeal.

The decision to dispose of One2One follows the appointment of Graham Wallace as the new chief executive of Cable & Wireless and the takeover of MediaOne by the rival US cable group Comcast in a \$60bn (£37bn) stock deal.

Several telecoms groups, including Deutsche Telekom and Mannesmann, Telekom of Germany, France Telecom and Bell Atlantic and SBC Communications of the US, are already being mooted as potential suitors. But analysts believe a flotation remains the more likely option.

That would almost certainly be the preference of the One2One management, given the freedom that a stock market listing would bring. But Tim Samples, the American managing director of One2One, refused to be drawn yesterday.

"I think we will have some say in the decision and we have spent a great deal of time with the banks acting for the two shareholders helping draw up the memorandum for sale. But at the end of the day I can't influence how C&W or MediaOne chose to manage their

paid off. There are now some 12 million subscribers – representing a penetration rate of 20 per cent – but that is generally expected to double in the next 12 to 18 months. By 2004, six in ten homes are forecast to have a mobile phone.

One2One's investment in the network – £12bn so far with another £600m to come taking its UK coverage up to 98 per cent – has also paid off. Subscriber numbers have more than doubled in the past 15 months to 2.5 million now.

Although the company made a pre-tax loss of £22m in 1997-98 and will be loss-making this year, it expects to break even in 2000.

James Ross of the brokers ABN Amro, reckons One2One will overtake Orange in terms of market share before the end of this year and be making pre-

paid off.

One2One's sales both stories are apocryphal but admits it did have problems in the early days with the network becoming clogged, particularly around some London tower blocks.

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SPORT

Golf: Europe's leading player is becoming obsessed with ending his bout of Stateside 'seconditis'



'I'd love to win over here, I really would. I have been second, but experience has shown me that, if you are one ahead, you have to be three ahead. You have to attack and attack and attack.'

Hearns to make British debut

BOXING

THOMAS HEARNS, Detroit's legendary 'hit man', will make his British debut at the age of 40 on the Naseem Hamed bill in Manchester next month.

Hearns will top the undercard in an International Boxing Organisation cruiserweight title fight against the former world champion Nate Miller - 19 years after winning his first world title. Hearns' appearance on the bill had been thrown into doubt when a prospective fight against Ulster's Darren Corbett fell through last week.

Barry Hearn, co-promoter of the show which is topped by Hamed's World Boxing Organisation featherweight title defence against Paul Ingle, insisted Hearns would undergo strict medical examinations before being allowed to compete.

"At the moment Hearns is undergoing the very strictest medical examination under the gaze of the British Boxing Board of Control, to make sure he is 100 per cent fit," Hearn said.

Hearns, also known as the "Motor City Cobra", has won world titles at five different weights and in his heyday in the early 1980s he was one of a golden quartet which also included Roberto Duran, Sugar Ray Leonard and Marvin Hagler.

A tall, skinny fighter who nevertheless had tremendous punching power, Hearns' greatest moment arguably came in defeat when he fought three of the most brutal rounds ever seen before losing to Hagler in April 1985.

Since losing his World Boxing Association light-heavyweight title to Iran Barkley in 1992, Hearns has kept busy by boxing against unknowns in America. His long-time trainer Emmanuel Steward - who also trains Lennox Lewis - is expected to come to Britain with Hearns for the fight.

Meanwhile Muhammad Ali has added his voice to the growing chorus of criticism over the judging in the recent title fight between Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis. Calling the fight "the biggest fix in fight history", Ali said he was humiliated by the fact that the sport "had sunk to its lowest levels."

In a letter to the Senate Commerce Committee chairman, John McCain, a Republican, Ali said: "It was clear to all who watched that the deciding victor of the match was England's Lennox Lewis".

The heavyweight unification title fight between Holyfield and Lewis on 13 March in New York ended in a draw, sparking investigations by a New York City grand jury, a New York State Senate committee, the New York State Athletic Commission and the Nevada Gaming Control Board.

McCain, a boxing fan, introduced a bill this year that would restrict the coercive option contracts by which promoters control a boxer's career, such as clauses forcing a boxer into a long-term deal in exchange for a shot at a world title.

"As the former three-times heavyweight boxing champion of the world, I believe I have the credibility to say Lewis won this bout without question and should have been named the clear and decided victor," Ali wrote.

Ali also added his support to McCain's bill, which is aimed at protecting boxers from exploitation and requiring promoters to be more open about their financial dealings.

The legislation has taken on added importance, Ali said, in light of the disputed draw.

"Professional boxers have for too long been the target of unscrupulous managers and promoters," Ali wrote. "I pray justice will be done and honour can be restored to this sport."

Montgomerie fighting US jinx

WHEN COLIN MONTGOMERIE tees off in The Players' Championship this afternoon, it will be for the 42nd time in a US tour events. Even without being constantly reminded by the media over here, the Scot is all too aware that he does so having failed to win any of those previous tournaments. To say winning on American soil has become an obsession for Europe's No1 player for the last six years, is no understatement.

BY ANDY FARRELL
in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

Consulting World Matchplay last year count. "The first was primarily a team event, but the other was a really good win, beating Ernie Els in the semis and Davis Love in the final, but it had no impact over here," Monty said.

"I have proved myself in Europe and now I'd love to win over here," he continued. "I really would. People expect me to win and it does grind a bit. I have been second a number of times but experience has shown that if you are one ahead, you have to be three ahead. There is no point just going for the fat of the green. You have to attack and attack and attack because there will be 20 other guys doing that and one of them will win."

The only consolation in Montgomerie's near misses are that they have come in the bigger tournaments, twice at the US Open, once

in the USPGA and once at the Players in 1996. Then he went into the water at the par-five 16th, while Fred Couples' approach at the same hole bounded over the pond thanks to a lucky bounce on a railway sleeper, allowing him to eagle the hole on the way to victory. "At least I do seem to play well on the tougher courses and this is as good as it gets," he said. "Every hole is a good think, a good test of golf. It has grown into a fantastic course over the last 10 years."

The scale of the tournament is most evident from the fact that the first prize of £560,000 is greater than the total prize fund at a dozen European tour events. But it is only the first of two important tournaments in three weeks, with the first major of the year, the Masters, to follow at Augusta.

Montgomerie is certainly not saving himself for the latter. "I'll take any win now. I can't be picky. I'd be delighted to win here. It is tougher

to win here than the Masters because there are 150 of the best players in the world and only 80 at the Masters."

Like Lee Westwood, Monty's form so far this year has been as slight as his figure. "I am trying to keep my mouth shut," he said. "There is food everywhere here but I have got to watch what I eat. I am the lightest I have been since I was 18 or 19."

But both Montgomerie and Westwood, as well as Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam, shot 79s in the final round at Bay Hill on Sunday. Westwood's answer was to consult Butch Harmon, Tiger Woods' coach, after his own mentor, Pete Cowen, returned home last week.

"I wasn't playing well and I didn't think there was any point in standing on the range without anything to work on," Westwood said. "Butch kindly said he would have a look and I started hitting it like my old self. It was the same thing I have been

working on with Pete but he just put it over a different way."

Westwood was fifth on his debut at Sawgrass last year, which set the 25-year-old off beautifully for winning in New Orleans the following week. Such form is not far away, he insists.

"This is only my fourth strokeplay event of the year and I haven't got a chance to get into any kind of rhythm yet."

In a practice match on Tuesday,

Westwood and Darren Clarke gave Lee Janzen and Frank Nobilo a "good trouncing", which was a welcome tonic for the Ulsterman who has been brooding over three missed cuts in four events.

"Darren has asked me a couple of times and I've given him my opinion," said Westwood. "At the end of the day we are trying to beat each other; so you don't give too much advice willingly," he added, smiling.

Side by side on the practice range

looking in need of any advice going were Nick Faldo and Seve Ballesteros. The pair have won 11 majors between them but their plight was summed up by the fact that they were stationed between the likes of Durrant, Fabel and Hart. Faldo has fallen to 87th in the world and Ballesteros to 468th and have made one cut between them this season.

The prospect of adding to that tally is unlikely this week. The course is drier than in recent years and reminds Tiger Woods, who heads the field with 49 of the top 50 players in the world, of when he won the US Amateur at the Stadium Course in August 1994. Since then, the world No 1's popularity has exploded and when he tried to go into a nearby McDonald's with the Open and Masters champion, Mark O'Meara, a woman server started screaming his name hysterically.

"When you go to smaller places, people tend to react with greater enthusiasm and lose it a bit more," Woods said. "New York is the best place because they don't care about anyone."

Rocca must start fast in Cup campaign

THE ITALIAN Costantino Rocca makes his debut in the Madeira Island Open, which starts tomorrow, hoping to fight back from a December accident which marred the start of his latest Ryder Cup campaign.

Rocca cut his finger badly at the end of last year and was not able to grip a club for the start of this season. He aims to make his comeback this week.

"I was late in starting my season and it's not been that great since I did get playing again," said the 42-year-old Rocca, 27th in the Ryder Cup standings.

"I cut my finger badly with a knife when I was trying to open a bottle of wine on December 30. It sliced a tendon and needed five stitches. It is better now and I need to play more so that's why I'm making my first

visit to Madeira. If I qualify for the Ryder Cup I don't want to arrive there dead physically, so it's important to start playing well now instead of pushing myself right to qualification time."

Rocca is in the strongest Madeira line-up yet, with three potential Ryder Cup rookies bidding for the 816 points for first prize. European rankings leader David Howell, An-

drew Coltart and Germany's Alex Cejka, all in qualifying top-10 places, come under further scrutiny from the captain, Mark James, who goes for a second win in this event after success in 1993.

The defending champion in Madeira is Sweden's Mats Lanner. His victory last year helped him regain a card after an 18-month absence from the tour.

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International players should not need motivation

WHEN WORD got out that Kevin Keegan had agreed to take temporary charge of the England football team, a spontaneous process arose in accordance with his adventurous spirit. "Up and at 'em," the Sun screamed gleefully.

Since enthusiasm was central to the immense reputation Keegan forged as a player and the excitement he generated as manager of Newcastle United, no wonder that England are not expected to want for passion in their European Championship qualifier against Poland at Wembley on Saturday.

Not so much tactical nous and technical accomplishment as the will to win. Certainly, it is well established that nothing much can be



KEN JONES

achieved in sport without putting in maximum effort but, as any number of football coaches have learned to their cost, battle cries are not all they are cracked up to be.

Only last week, Tottenham's di-

rector of football, David Pleat, after overhearing a supporter's assumption that George Graham would wind his players up before playing for Tottenham against Nottingham Forest in the 1991 FA Cup final. "Once Paul got out there, it was clear that we hadn't done enough to calm him down," Terry Venables has since said. "You want players to be keyed up but there can be a downside to excitement."

All this stuff about motivation gives rise to some interesting questions. What is this quest for character coaches are always going on about? And courage, momentum and pride? Where is the pride in a footballer who needs stimulation to play in a big game?

One thing we have to remember is that many players are so occupied by their small piece of the action and so preoccupied with themselves and their fears that they really have no conception of the big picture of the team or the game.

No manager in history is credited with greater powers of motivation than Bill Shankly, who saw enough in Keegan's enthusiasm to sign him for Liverpool from Scun-

thorpe. Shankly's talent for popular imagery is best represented by a tale John Toshack told one night about a FA Cup semi-final replay between Liverpool and Leicester at Villa Park earned by Peter Shilton's exceptional goalkeeping.

"Surprisingly, Bill didn't show up in the dressing-room until shortly before the kick-off," Toshack recalled. "He just stood there looking at us, hands thrust into the pockets of his raincoat. 'Imagine,' he said that you are being battered by George Foreman [at the time world heavyweight champion] and the lights go out and you have to do it again. That's how Leicester feel.'

Then he was gone. Perfect. Bloody perfect."

Matt Busby argued that excitable managers sent out excitable teams. To my mind it is no coincidence that England were most successful when the dressing-room was calm and there was a sense of adult responsibility. "We were always ready, often nervous too, but never worked up," George Cohen, of the 1966 World Cup winning team, recalled. "Nobby [Stiles] was always full of it, but the mood was set by Alf [Ramsey] and Bobby [Moore]. When the call came, Bobby simply picked up the ball and said: 'Let's go!'"

Bearing that in mind, if Keegan has made a mistake so far it is in preferring Alan Shearer to Tony Adams as captain. Adams' old repu-

tation as a fist-waving influence has given way to such composed authority that he has never played better or had more respect.

Whatever footballers feel, whatever tingle of anticipation lights up their minds and feet, the significance of a downturn in fortunes is that it makes passion suddenly less relevant, even a burden.

In any case, it would seem that professionals, who by definition are supposed to perform at a high standard, who have highly lucrative careers at stake and families to support and egos to bulwark and team-mates to join in a common cause, have enough natural stimulation without the jive of coaches and managers.

Salary...
to elite'

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ATHLETICS

BADMINTON

BASKETBALL

BOWLS

CRICKET

FOOTBALL

GOLF

HOCKEY

NETBALL

SWIMMING

SNOW REPORTS

SURF HOTLINE

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SWIMMING

One
Lords'
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REACTION

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 25 March 1999

Hingis demolishes Schett in 43 minutes

MARTINA HINGIS hit three balls high into the stands after advancing to the semi-finals of the Lipton Championships here, and the spectators who caught them each received a prize. They were the only gifts Hingis handed out yesterday.

Bárbara Schett, the Austrian who eliminated Anna Kournikova in her previous match 6-1, 6-1, 6-1, saw similar figures on the scoreboard, but this time they were in favour of her opponent, 6-1, 6-1.

Hingis, the world No 1, re-

TENNIS
BY JOHN ROBERTS
in Key Biscayne, Florida

quited only 43 minutes to complete her afternoon's task and now waits for the winner of the quarter-final between Serena Williams and Amanda Coetzer.

Pausing for breath before preparing to play Coetzer, Williams addressed the reason for her success so far this season. "Last year I was young," she said. "It was my first time

playing matches against top players. This year I guess you can say I'm old." All of 17, in fact.

The younger of the American sisters (Venus, the defending champion, is due to play Jana Novotna in the quarter-finals in the opposite side of the draw today) had just stepped off the Stadium Court after overpowering the 25-year-old Monica Seles 6-2, 6-3 in the fourth round. It seems only yesterday that Seles was making similar charming statements, such as

winning the 1990 French Open would be likely to change her. "No, I'll still be the same little old me."

Seles, the No 3 seed, is not exactly careworn in spite of the troubles that have beset her career since that happy day in Paris, and is always prepared to give credit where it is due. "Serena just hit unbelievable shots," she said. "She's up there with the fastest players: Venus, her sister; and, probably on clay, Arantxa [Sanchez-Vicario]. I mean, you still have to

play tennis no matter how fast you are."

Serena Williams is undefeated in her two matches against Seles, the latest success extending her run to 14 straight victories, incorporating consecutive WTA Tour titles, in the Paris Open and the Evert Cup in Indian Wells, California. "I actually think Monica played very well today," she said, having had the better of the majority of the hard-hitting rallies and also capitalising on Seles' errors.

"She probably came out really trying to play me well, and I actually saw her run fast today. Any other day it was different, but today, boy, was she on the run. She got balls I really didn't expect her to get. That was my fault, because I should expect everyone to get every ball."

Seles, whose prospects of retrieving shots may improve during the clay-court season (last year she was a finalist at the French Open, losing to Sanchez-Vicario), was disappo-

inted not to have made more of the opportunities she created. "I started off pretty good, but every time that I had a chance, I made a mistake or Serena hit an unbelievable shot. There's no in-between. When she needed to come up with a great shot, she did."

Her sister Venus has lost each of her three previous matches against Novotna, on carpet courts in Moscow and Hanover and on grass in last year's Wimbledon quarter-finals, when Novotna was en

route to her first Grand Slam singles title. It will be interesting to see if Williams fares better against the Czech serve-volleyer on the medium-paced concrete here.

Anke Huber, who thrashes the ball from the baseline, gave Williams a testing time in the fourth round, the American squeezing through, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6. "I don't think I was aggressive enough," Williams said. "I was waiting too much for something to happen instead of making something happen."

Salary cap central to elite's survival

RUGBY UNION
BY CHRIS HEWITT

THREATENED WITH a 15-sided version of the Great Crash - Richmond is in financial administration, half a dozen other Premiership clubs are flailing dangerously with bankruptcy - English rugby yesterday bit the bullet of common sense and brought some much-needed sanity to the economics of the madhouse. The money men behind the 14 clubs in the top flight of the Allied Dunbar Championship agreed to cap salaries next season in an effort to stabilise a financial situation that has been out of control since the onset of professionalism almost four years ago.

"The clubs are looking at ways of redirecting their outgoings while maximising their income," said Howard Thomas, the chief executive of English First Division Rugby. "Playing squad costs remain the single largest expense and the clubs intend to focus on improving facilities and standards of operation. The idea of capping wages is accepted by all the clubs as a necessity to ensure long-term viability."

In other words, more money will be spent on pulling in the crowds and less on filling the players' pockets - pretty good news for anyone who has attempted to watch Bath play from the Recreation Ground

terraces. Firm details have yet to be agreed - talks will be held over the next month and an agreement tabled at the April meeting of the ERDR board - but the clubs are seeking to impose a wage ceiling of around £15m per Premiership One squad per season. That would allow clubs a degree of flexibility in deciding how many players to contract and how much cash to throw at their big names.

Thomas said the ERDR clubs, who are still at loggerheads with the organisers of the European Cup and are by no means certain to declare a truce in time for next week's meeting of the competition's board, had also agreed to co-ordinate all marketing and commercial activity as a means of maximising efficiency and revenue. "It makes sense," said Thomas, the former Sale chief executive. "It allows us to build a valuable brand by marketing first division rugby to sponsors, broadcasters and the public as a single sporting proposition."

One man who will not be costing anyone any money next year is the Bath wing Jim Fallon, who threw away an England career by signing a

£200,000 rugby league deal with Leeds in 1992. The 33-year-old England A cap has retired after doctors warned him he risked serious eye damage if he continued to play. Fallon already has impaired vision in his right eye, despite two operations on a detached retina. "I've lost some peripheral vision and it would have been dangerous to carry on," he said yesterday.

A powerhouse of wing in the John Bentley mould - in purely physical terms, he was the nearest thing to a prototype Jonah Lomu, England ever produced - Fallon was an influential member of Bath's double-winning side of 1992; indeed, he turned pro immediately after helping the West Country club to a famous extra-time cup final victory over Harlequins. At that point he was on the verge of an international breakthrough, having won six England A caps and played for the Barbarians when that still meant something.

He returned to union to join the Richmond "revolution" - which has since devoured its own by making 34 people redundant - but moved back to Bath last summer after slipping behind Spencer Brown and Dominic Chapman in the Londoners' pecking order. He is the only player to have made cap final appearances in both codes.



University of Wales, Swansea, (quartered shirts) launch an attack on their way to retaining the British Universities Sports Association rugby union championship title with a 33-15 victory over St Mary's University College at Twickenham yesterday

David Ashdown

O'Neill given last chance

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

JULIAN O'NEILL, the game's most notorious bad lad, is to be allowed to play again in Australia, provided he goes on an alcohol rehabilitation course.

The former Widnes and London player has not played since a series of disastrous incidents at a motel after a pre-season game with his present club, South Sydney. The National Rugby League suspended his registration, but has now agreed to let him resume his chequered career, provided he seeks help for his drinking

problem. Previous offences have seen the Queensland State of Origin player sacked from a string of Australian clubs, as well as being arrested for drink-driving offences in England, and this is described as his last chance.

St Helens' out-of-favour Australian prop, Phil Adamson, has been named in the Alliance team to play Bradford on Saturday.

Adamson, despite a big reputation and a big contract, has been unable to force his way into Saints' starting team and was left out of the squad completely against Gateshead on Sunday.

However, Saints' coach, Ellery Hanley, has assured him that he will come into the reckoning if he plays well enough.

Gateshead and London have both checked on his situation in the past, but neither would come close to the deal he commands at St Helens.

Edinburgh skater injured knee ligaments while breaking in new boots earlier this month and had to withdraw at the last minute. No other British woman skater was considered by the British National Ice Skating Association to be

strong enough to substitute for Main in Helsinki.

The leaders after the qualifying stage are the American world champion, Michelle Kwan, Russia's European champion, Maria Butyrskaya, and Tatiana Malinina, from Uzbekistan.

Kwan led Group A ahead of the Frenchwoman Vanessa Gremmelli, while Butyrskaya led Malinina in Group B.

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Take Command on day one

BY GREG WOOD

THERE IS not much vegetation on Newmarket Heath, but for at least six weeks, what little there is has generally had at least one pair of binoculars poking out from between its branches. Flat racing on turf is about to return, and the dozens of quack tipsters who clog up Channel 4's Teletext pages are preparing for their most profitable month. "Unraced juvenile - this catcher pigeons," the adverts will run, or "unexposed three-year-old - handicap snip", and for once, punters who should know better might just be ready to believe it.

For there is certainly something in the air when the lissome young things of the Flat emerge blinking from their winter quarters. It is the prospect of new names, fresh challenges, the next Classic generation, and perhaps an evening or two at Windsor or Nottingham when

bang anyway, when the post-Cheltenham blues are still in evidence and many punters are probably happy just to ease themselves in.

The spiritual opening to the season, of course, is the Craven meeting at Newmarket next month, although these days it should probably be the Guineas meeting itself, when the Godolphin horses arrive back from Dubai with a tan and a hungry look in their eyes.

Alfie's place, the front end of the Guineas market is occupied by Stravinsky, trained by Aidan O'Brien who won last year's Classic with King Of Kings. He could make his seasonal debut as early as this Sunday at Leopardstown. Dilly remembered names including Mijahid the Dewhurst winner, in case you're struggling, Enriquie and Killer Instinct, are also prominent.

It is time to welcome back familiar faces among trainers and jockeys too, although David Loder, whose strike-rate was a crutch for many a wounded punter, has now left for France

and his new job looking after Godolphin's two-year-olds. We

will lose another ally too at the end of the year when Jack Berry retires. He sets off on his final Flat campaign with more than 50 juveniles in his yard, and from that wealth of options he has chosen to run Paris Star (2.05) in the Brodsky Stakes today. Though this is never a race to bet the bank on, a hint that big is difficult to pass up.

Generous Libra (next best 3.40) has the ability to win the Doncaster Mile, although as happened last year with John Jenkins's Hornbeam, one rival could turn up having been trained to the minute for just this race. There is already some good form behind WESTERN COMMAND (map 2.35), not to mention a fair weight based on his latest all-weather success and the shrewd hands of Sir Mark Prescott.

It is time to start with a

As certain as the start of the Flat season, though, is the complaint that Doncaster in March seems a strange point at which to kick off. Which it probably is, but it was ever thus, and no-one ever says that the Beeateers at the tower should turn up to work in a suit and tie. And why is it necessary to start with a

breakdown in communication

between the clerk of the scales and the course announcer that led to the weigh-in being announced before the changed result was made public.

Hutsby, 22, passed the post in front of 50,000 at Donning News but on weighing in, the clerk of the scales noted that Hutsby

was 1/4lb below the 11st 12lb he should have carried. Daring News was awarded the race.

■ Go Ballistic was the most notable absentee among 51 horses left in at yesterday's forfeit stage for the Grand National.

Those who had already backed him for the 2,000 Guineas have been complaining ever since the plan was revealed, but in a global racing industry, this is simply another pitfall of ante-post betting. It would also be

time to welcome back familiar faces among trainers and jockeys too, although David Loder, whose strike-rate was a crutch for many a wounded punter, has now left for France

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some good form behind WESTERN COMMAND (map 2.35), not to mention a fair weight

based on his latest all-weather

success and the shrewd hands

of Sir Mark Prescott.

It is time to start with a

breakdown in communication

between the clerk of the scales

and the course announcer that

led to the weigh-in being

announced before the changed

result was made public.

Hutsby, 22, passed the post in

front of 50,000 at Donning News

but on weighing in, the clerk of

the scales noted that Hutsby

was 1/4lb below the 11st 12lb he

should have carried. Daring

News was awarded the race.

■ Go Ballistic was the most

notable absentee among 51 horses

left in at yesterday's forfeit

stage for the Grand National.

Those who had already backed

him for the 2,000 Guineas have

been complaining ever since

the plan was revealed, but in a

Stewart's appeal to Lloyd

AMIDST THE confusion created by the imminent departure of David Lloyd, the England coach, the World Cup song was launched at Lord's yesterday by its creator Dave Stewart, formerly one half of the Eurythmics. But if the catchy tune is seen primarily as a way of trying to get young people hooked on cricket, the England captain, Alec Stewart (no relation apparently), was hoping that it would not be the coach's swan-song after all.

"Whether Bumble [Lloyd's nickname] was packing in or not after the World Cup, we'll still be doing our best to win," Stewart said. "If we do win it, hopefully someone can change his mind about carrying on. He loves being England coach and he's brilliant at his job."

Lloyd, who revealed that he would be stepping down as team coach after the tournament, was not at Lord's yesterday, though he had been 24 hours earlier, when he met with officials from the England and Wales Cricket Board to press for an extension to his contract. Not unsurprisingly they demanded the right to make that decision after the World Cup, a time frame Lloyd felt unable to accept.

"It was a very amicable meeting," said Tim Lamb, the ECB's chief executive. "There is a whole host of factors that have to be considered before we re-engage a head coach and England's performance in the World Cup was one of those factors. We respect David's wish to have assurances over his future as early as possible, but we simply didn't feel able to give him those assurances now. It's one of those decisions where you are damned if you do make it and damned if you don't."

However, in the murky world of sport, one decision tends to beget another and it will not be long before a replacement for Lloyd will have to be announced. Coincidence or not, early speculation has centred on South Africa's outgoing coach Bob Woolmer, who later played down the rumours.

Speaking yesterday morning on Radio 4, Woolmer said that, although possibly tempted by the England job, he was looking forward to a long rest once the World Cup had been concluded. Yet if Woolmer was implying that a long rest would rule him out, Lamb scoffed at most needs.

Recalls for Hooper and Chanderpal

CARL HOOPER and Shivnarine Chanderpal, who missed the opening two Tests, were included in West Indies' 13-man squad for the third Test against Australia, which was announced yesterday.

While Chanderpal was out of action with a shoulder injury, Hooper has been in Australia with his wife and sick child. He warmed up with a century and nine wickets in the West Indies A side's 154-run defeat by India in the match that ended on Tuesday. The Barbados opener Adrian Griffith, has also won a place in the squad for the Test in Bridgetown, beginning tomorrow.

CRICKET
BY DEREK PRINGLE

the notion that immediate availability was a prerequisite.

"If we have to make an interim appointment for the Test series against New Zealand we will," said Lamb. "Obviously we'd prefer continuity but, if we have to, we'll take as much time as is needed to make the right decision for English cricket." According to Lamb the net for candidates will be cast wide and will not be restricted to British nationals.

The method for vetting them will not be quite as obliging though, and a shortlist will be compiled by the international teams department of the ECB, headed by former Nato man, Simon Pack. Once an individual has been singled out he has to be endorsed by the England management committee (EMAC), presumably after consultation with the England captain.

But that was all rather dull and humdrum, the indoor school at Lord's was a riot of colour and activity as a bevy of celebrities – for some reason known as ambassadors – donned pads and coloured shirts to bat against Darren Gough or bowl at Neil Fairbrother Caprice, the wonderbra model used to launch the England kit last October, was also there, though it was the song that ultimately stole the show.

"All over the world," as the tune is known, comes with two video versions. The first, made by Stewart himself, borrows heavily from the film *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* and depicts white-coated lunatics – some felt they must be umpires or the Berney Army, others the ECB – breaking out of the asylum and joining kids playing a cricket match.

The second video, the official one that will be widely used by TV coverage of the World Cup (the BBC will still use the Booker T & the MG's song "Soul Limbo" to open their final broadcasts for four years), shows more typical cricket action from the teams competing. Either way, the song and the videos are bound to get people talking and foot tapping. Along with the World Cup and a new cricket coach, that is just what English cricket most needs.



Ray Parlour buckles down to training with the England squad at Bisham Abbey. If I get the chance, I'll enjoy every minute of it, he says. David Ashdown

David Parlour has overcome considerable demons en route to the England fold. By Adam Sreter

Lessons of life pay off for Parlour

SO RAY PARLOUR'S unlikely resurrection from the floor of a Hong Kong jail is almost complete. Four and a half years ago he was down and out among the petty thieves and other assorted criminals, grovelling around blind drunk – again – uncertain whether his immediate future lay with his football club or in the hands of the prison guards. Fortunately for Parlour, for Arsenal and perhaps England, he was allowed home the next day and has not looked back.

That experience, the result of a brawl with a local taxi driver on a club tour, was one of a number of unsavoury incidents that threatened to lead Parlour straight into the gutter with a bottle in his hand during his early years as a professional. As a drinker, he later admitted, he was Thasy Adams' "understudy", the sauce apprentice playing the part with the powerful commitment that his football over the past two years has shown he possesses in abundance.

The Arsenal captain's well-publicised admission to alcoholism, as well as team-mate Paul Merson's similar revelations, was the start of Parlour's own rehabilitation. The arrival of Arsène Wenger as manager turned out to be another godsend for the player, even though many predicted Parlour would not survive once the likes of Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira were drafted in.

But he has not only survived, he has prospered on Arsenal's right flank and while a mis-spent past is betrayed in the weathered face of a 26-year-old former West Ham fan from Romford, everything else about him oozes optimism and a willingness to tackle any hurdle he may find in his path.

"I've got a couple of kids now and that's settled me down a bit," he said earlier this week, evidently delighted to be back in the England squad after the disappointment of missing out on World Cup selection. "I tend to go home to my kids now instead of going down the pub.

"Sometimes it was my own fault, going to the wrong places at the wrong time and a lot of things were blown out of proportion, but it was time to change. That may change under Kevin Keegan at Wembley on Saturday, but Parlour's absence from the squad for France led last week to the most direct criticism yet of Glenn Hoddle by his successor.

Keegan said he thought Parlour ought to have been there, further grist to the mills of Hoddle-sceptics, but Parlour himself, called into the squad four times by Hoddle, said: "To be fair the four times I was here I was injured every time so he didn't really see me train and he couldn't really pick me."

With five major honours already to his name as an Arsenal player, no one could call Parlour an underachiever. The one aspect of his game which leaves room for improvement is goal-scoring but even that, with five goals in his last seven games including a spectacular effort against Coventry last Saturday, is falling into place. "It's always nice to score goals like that," he said. "I told Dennis I'd teach him that in training."

"He has improved technically, most of all in goal-scoring," Wenger said. "I don't think he would have scored the goal he got on Saturday last year. But the best thing about him is his engine. With him, you always get extra time. He is a power and stamina. Being a regular player has changed him as well. It has given him confidence and playing with Petit and Vieira has helped."

With confidence to burn,

Keegan might be well advised to blood Parlour on Saturday. "If I get the chance I'll enjoy every minute of it," Parlour said.

"Everybody wants to play for their country and I think I'm mature enough to cope with the demands of such a big game now. I've played in big games before and this is just another game. You have to approach it in the same way and give everything you've got. That's all you can do."

Things were blown out of proportion but it was time to change. I still enjoy socialising but at the right times'

gave me encouragement and I thought, 'Well, this is my last chance'. In the past I'd been in and out of the team and some people were getting fed up with me not doing the business.

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Brown warns trio to avoid bookings

A TRIO of Scotland's defenders will have to tread carefully in the Euro 2000 qualifier against Bosnia at Ibrox on Saturday.

David Weir of Everton, Matt Elliott of Leicester and Callum Davidson of Blackburn are all on one yellow card. Another booking will see them suspended for the vital game against the Group Nine leaders, the Czech Republic, the following Wednesday at Celtic Park.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, is keen not to lose any more players after being forced to name a depleted squad for the two qualifiers. "I know all three players will have to be careful but I still want them to play their natural game. What

I don't want to see is silly bookings for something like dissent, or say, for kicking the ball away," Brown said yesterday.

Uefa have confirmed that the Macedonia v Republic of Ireland Euro 2000 qualifier in Skopje on Saturday has been postponed because of the crisis in Kosovo and the possible Nato air strikes planned against the neighbouring Serbian government. Two other qualifiers have also been postponed.

The games in Belgrade between Yugoslavia and Croatia on Saturday and Yugoslavia and Macedonia next Wednesday have been rescheduled for 18 August and 4 September respectively.

TOMORROW

'He pointed his gun at me and told me not to talk'

Athlete Birhan Dagne on why she ran away from Ethiopia to run for Britain

Royle fails in Sharpe snatch

BY ALAN NIXON

LEE SHARPE signed for Bradford City last night – but only after Joe Royle failed in his attempt to hijack him at Manchester Airport.

Royle, the Manchester City manager, met Sharpe for talks after the former Manchester United winger had arrived back in England from an unhappy spell in Italy at Sampdoria. However, Sharpe turned down Royle's late offer and has joined Bradford City on loan from Châteauroux. Earlier this week the Blades had signed David Holdsworth to Birmingham for £1.2m and Graham Stuart to Charlton for £1.1m.

Everton's bid to sign Michael Thomas has collapsed because of a tax problem. The former Liverpool midfielder was set to leave Benfica to sign for Walter Smith's struggling side for the rest of the season. However,

Liverpool's Oyvind Leonhardsen is wanted by Rangers to help them out of an injury crisis. The Norwegian international midfielder is out of favour;

Aberdeen signed the

at Anfield and is available at around £1m.

Sunderland have signed the Danish international midfielder Carsten Frederik from Lyngby for a fee of around £1.8m, subject to a medical.

The Tottenham striker Roy Allen is joining Queen's Park Rangers on loan. Bury are trying to sign the former Morton striker Derek Liley on loan from Leeds United for the rest of the season.

Manchester United's Northern Ireland international midfielder Phil Mulryne is set to sign for Norwich City for £250,000. The Canaries have also taken the Chelsea midfielder Paul Hughes on loan, and are still pursuing the Newcastle striker Paul Delight.

Aberdeen signed the

Hearts forward Jim Hamilton for £225,000. The Edinburgh club could use the income to bid for Celtic's Scotland forward Darren Jackson.

Southampton have lodged a second appeal against the Department for Education and Employment's refusal to grant a work permit to the Latvian international forward Marjan Pahars, whom they want to sign from Skonto Riga.

Uefa, European football's ruling body, has refused an appeal by the Chelsea chairman, Ken Bates, for the European Cup-Winners' Cup final to be switched from Villa Park to Wembley. The Stamford Bridge side face Real Mallorca in the last four next month and may meet Lazio in the final.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, is keen not to lose any more players after being forced to name a depleted squad for the two qualifiers. "I know all three players will have to be careful but I still want them to play their natural game. What

there are a few hours who have made the running in the pool and that should not BUCKSON CAMEO, who showed promise in better company last season. She should go now, if she handles the quicker ground, and look the one to beat.

FORM VERDICT

NORDIC BREEZE was a lot better than these over hurdles and, with the ground in his favour, he looks set to get off the mark for success. He should too well come in the form of Northern who came good at the time last season on steeper ground.

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FORM VERDICT

Glory and despair - the rail

THE MANAGERS

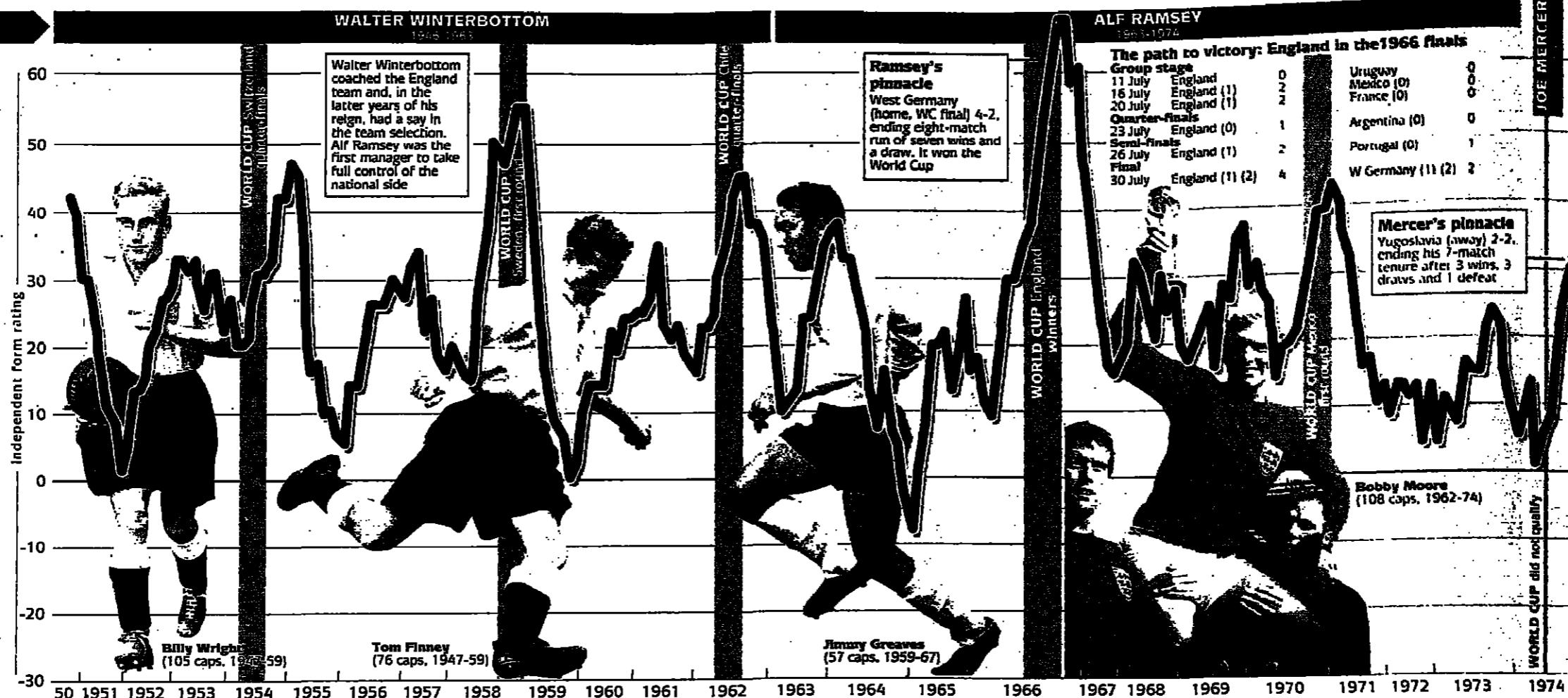
OUR ENGLAND FORM GUIDE

The Independent has assessed statistically every England result since the 1950 World Cup. Each result has been given a mark according to a ratings system which takes into account the quality of the opposition and the venue for the match, with bonus points awarded for games in World Cup and European Championship finals (see panel below for full details of the rating system).

On the basis of these ratings we have given England a "form" figure after every match and produced the accompanying graph to plot England's progress over the years. In order to give a picture of true form - rather than merely a figure for each individual match - our Form figure after each game is reached by adding together the ratings points for the match in question plus those of the previous seven matches (Fifa, world football's governing body, uses a similar system to calculate its world rankings).

Our rankings begin after the 1950 World Cup. Form in the preceding years is difficult to assess accurately because of the post-war turmoil.

RESEARCH: NICK HARRIS
GRAPHIC: KRISTINA FERRIS



Carefree style that disguises ambition



RICHARD WILLIAMS

fulfilled career with England. Keegan was 31 at the time and felt he had a bit of international football left in him. They usually do.

As it happens, his first goal for England was scored against Wales at Ninian Park in May 1974, as part of the first team selected by Joe Mercer, his predecessor in the role of part-time, short-term emergency manager. Seven years later he had come to embody the essence of English football, as Bobby Charlton had done before him and Gary Lineker would do afterwards. But he was captain of the side, managed by Ron Greenwood, which lost 2-1 to Switzerland in a World Cup qualifying match in Basle and thus became, according to the statistical evidence laid out on these pages, the worst England team since the war.

Keegan's life and career have always been closely associated with the national team. As a player, he wanted to be the best. And being the best meant not just winning cups and medals and individual awards in club football but, above all, playing for his country. He won nothing with England other than his 63 caps, yet to anyone not born within a bus ride of Anfield, the residual image of Keegan the player is probably a mental snapshot of a long-haired imp scurrying around in tight blue shorts and a skimpy white shirt with red stripes down the sleeves - the national strip of the Seventies.

Born only a few months after the beginning of the period covered by our survey of England's post-war fortunes, Keegan won his first international cap in 1973 and played under four of his nine managerial predecessors - Ramsey, Mercer, Revie and Greenwood. A fifth, Robson, caused a bit of a stir by leaving him out of his first squad in 1982, thus ending an illustrious if ultimately un-

country, but his appearance as a substitute with less than half an hour to go could not deliver the goals needed to carry England through to the semi-finals (in fact, as everyone of a certain age remembers, he missed the chance to put a header into an open goal).

That, poignantly, was his last appearance in the national colours until this week when he proudly donned an England tracksuit and gambolled among his players

as he faces the first of his allotted four matches as national coach. For, if the wild fluctuations of a 50-year, 500-game span have any message, it would appear to be that no situation, however grievous it may seem, is irrecoverable.

A week after Greenwood's team fell to the Swiss, Keegan and Trevor Brooking scored the goals that brought a brilliant 3-1 victory over Hungary in Budapest. A further humiliation against Norway in Oslo was enough to see England through to the final. Treatment to Keegan's chronic back injury cost the team his presence in Spain until the final second-round game, against the host

The reversal of the team's fortunes in the months following that dismal day should be of some comfort to Keegan as he faces the first of his allotted four matches as national coach. For, if the wild fluctuations of a 50-year, 500-game span have any message, it would appear to be that no situation, however grievous it may seem, is irrecoverable.

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Keegan on the training pitch: 'He proudly donned the England tracksuit and gambolled among his players'

PA

"THERE WAS always a part of me that thought I would be England manager one day," the new man volunteered this week, displaying the sort of sentimental candour with which Joseph Kevin Keegan so cleverly shrouds the hard flame of personal ambition.

When he examines the graph of England's post-war results, printed above, Keegan may wonder what he has let himself in for. It looks like the cardiogram of an incurable manic depressive - and some might say that the diagnosis could hardly be more accurate. The team's progress through the last half-century has been a stomach-churning alternation of elation and despair, with limited opportunities for the in-between emotions such as guarded optimism and low-grade depression. But the new coach would scarcely be human were he not to spend more time dreaming of the peaks than fearing the troughs.

Throughout nine managerial terms there has been remarkably little consistency of achievement on the international stage. Nothing remotely like a plateau separates the triumphs from the disasters. For every 5-3 home defeat by Hungary (1953) there is a 4-2 victory over Germany in the biggest match of all (1966). For every crushing 2-1 defeat in Oslo (1961) there is a valiant and vital goalless draw in Italy (1957). And so on. The art of being England's manager, it seems, is to manufacture a rapid upswing, and then to ride it all the way to the World Cup finals, where inspiration and luck take over. Keegan will not have that opportunity - not, anyway, during this particular term of office, if he sticks to his word - but by assuming control at a relative

example), tells us more about modern life in general than about football in particular. It does not, in any case, apply to the fixed-term adventure on which Keegan is about to embark.

Another possible extrapolation from the graph is the suggestion that any fully fledged term of England management is inevitably terminated by failure - only Winterbottom, Taylor and Hoddle signed off with

victories, and two out of those three, Taylor's 7-1 against San Marino and Hoddle's 2-1 against the Czech Republic, could be described as pyrrhic. But this finding, too, excludes Keegan by virtue of his special circumstances. And the end-to-end phenomenon is true of football managers in general at the game's higher levels, whether international or otherwise.

To acknowledge the achievement of reaching the finals of either the European Championship or the World Cup - and in order to recognise the importance of matches played at this level - we have given a 5-point bonus for each match played at this stage of those two competitions. For example, a 1-0 defeat at home to France (a top-eight-sided team) in the final group match of the 1990 World Cup, 2. The next eight teams in the previous World Cup, 3. Every other country except those we classified as "minnows", 4. Minnows.

As he has done so often during his extraordinary career, Kevin Keegan is adroitly giving the misleading impression of casting his fate to the wind. His assumption of the England post looks like the impulsive gesture of a carefree individual, and his remarks at this week's opening press conference were designed to convey the impression of a man happy to improvise his

way out of a crisis. In fact Keegan has coolly measured the job to his exact specifications, trimming the odds against success and enlarging the possibility that he will avoid the traditional fall from grace. Alone of all the 10 England managers since 1950, he is in a position to define the exact nature of the task he faces. If he can get his team to play with a similar sense of purpose, the cardiogram could be moving up once more.

THE FIGURE on the right of each match indicates the number of points for each result (see panel for explanation as to how the points are awarded).

KEY

WCF: Match played in World Cup finals.

ECF: Match played in European Championship finals.

1950

1-0 Scotland (Glasgow)

0-2 Uruguay (New York)

0-1 Wales (Cardiff)

3-1 NI Ireland (Goodison Park)

3-6 Hungary (Wembley)

-6

1951

2-3 Scotland (Wembley)

2-1 Argentina (Wembley)

3-2 Portugal (Goodison Park)

4-2 Chile (Rio de Janeiro) WCF

4-1 NI Ireland (Belfast)

4-2 Wales (Sunderland)

2-2 Yugoslavia (Highbury)

-4

1952

2-1 Scotland (Wembley)

0-2 Scotland (Glasgow)

1-1 Italy (Florence)

3-2 Austria (Vienna)

3-0 Switzerland (Zürich)

2-2 Ireland (Belfast)

3-5 Wales (Wembley)

5-0 Belgium (Wembley)

-3

1953

2-2 Scotland (Wembley)

0-0 (abandoned) Argentina (B Aires)

2-1 Chile (Santiago)

-7

1954

1-0 Scotland (Wembley)

5-1 Rep of Ireland (Wembley)

3-0 Mexico (Wembley)

-5

1955

7-2 Scotland (Wembley)

1-0 France (Paris)

1-3 Portugal (Lisbon)

5-2 France (Paris)

4-2 USA (Rio de Janeiro) WCF

4-1 Spain (Rio de Janeiro) WCF

4-1 NI Ireland (Belfast)

2-2 Yugoslavia (Wembley)

-5

1956

1-1 Scotland (Glasgow)

4-2 Brazil (Montevideo)

0-3 Uruguay (Montevideo)

7-2 Argentina (Buenos Aires)

5-5 Portugal (Lisbon)

4-2 Chile (Santiago)

1-0 France (Paris)

3-1 NI Ireland (Wembley)

2-2 Yugoslavia (Wembley)

-6

1957

2-1 Scotland (Wembley)

5-1 Rep of Ireland (Wembley)

5-0 Mexico (Wembley)

-5

1958

7-2 Scotland (Wembley)

0-1 France (Paris)

1-3 Portugal (Lisbon)

5-1 Spain (Madrid)

3-1 Denmark (Copenhagen)

1-0 Wales (Cardiff)

2-0 France (Paris)

3-1 NI Ireland (Belfast)

2-0 Poland (Wembley)

-5

1959

7-2 Scotland (Wembley)

1-0 France (Paris)

1-3 Portugal (Lisbon)

5-1 Spain (Madrid)

3-1 Denmark (Copenhagen)

1-0 Wales (Cardiff)

2-0 France (Paris)

3-1 NI Ireland (Belfast)

2-0 Poland (Wembley)

-5

1960

1-0 Scotland (Glasgow)

4-2 Spain (Madrid)

3-1 Portugal (Lisbon)

5-1 Spain (Madrid)

3-1 Denmark (Copenhagen)

1-0 Wales (Cardiff)

2-0 France (Paris)

3-1 NI Ireland (Belfast)

2-0 Poland (Wembley)

-5

1961

7-2 Scotland (Wembley)

5-3 Scotland (Wembley)

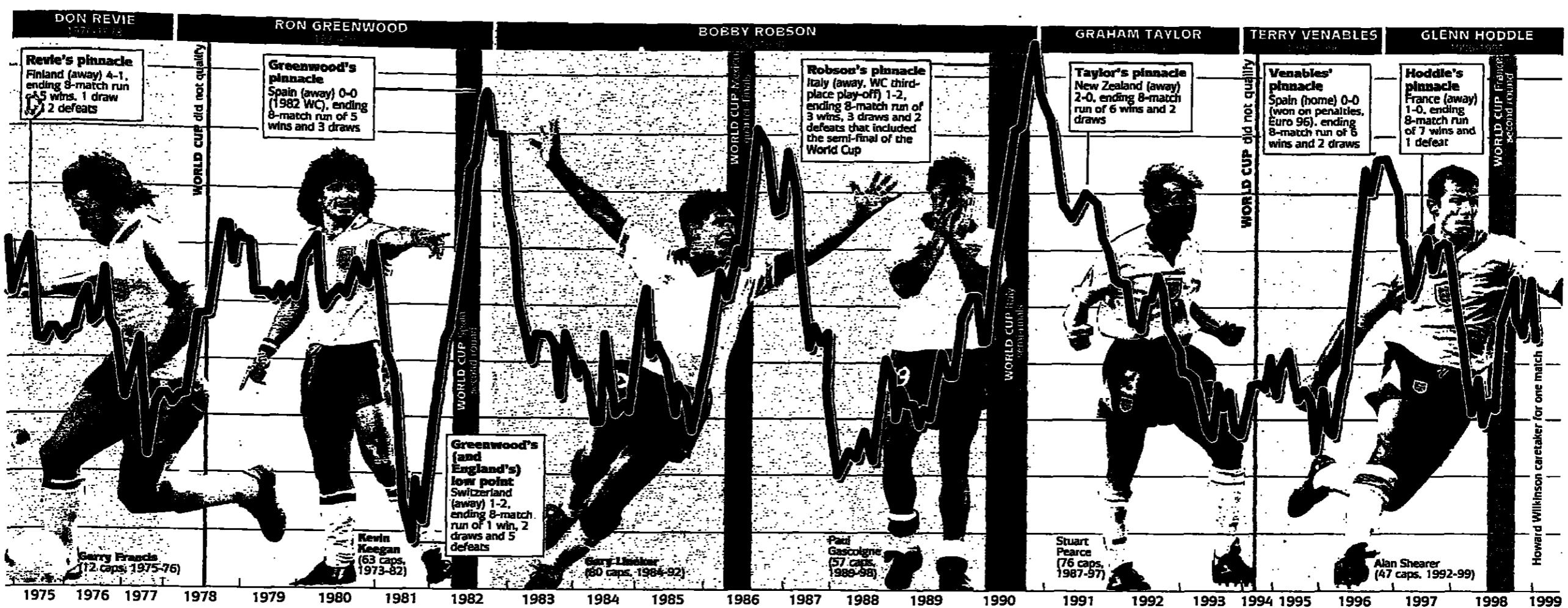
5-0 Mexico (Wembley)

-5

1962

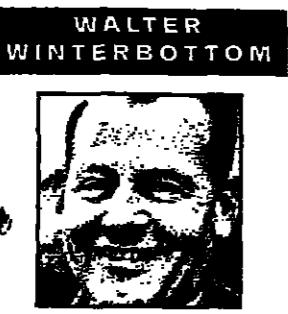
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the trail Keegan will follow

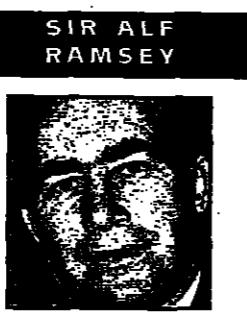


From Winterbottom to Wilkinson

Glenn Moore examines the careers of England's managers



First game: 28 Sep 1946, Northern Ireland (a) 7-2
Last game: 22 Nov 1962, Wales (h) 4-0
P139 W77 D33 L28



First game: 27 Feb 1963, France (a) 2-5
Last game: 3 Apr 1974, Portugal (a) 0-0
P139 W77 D27 L17

APPOINTED AFTER an unexpected defeat in Switzerland, Winterbottom was director of coaching, with responsibility for the development of the game at all levels, first, and England coach second. He never had full control of selection but, in the early years, this did not matter as England reigned supreme, winning 4-0 in Italy and 10-0 in Portugal (the forward line in Lisbon was Matthews, Mortensen, Davison, Mannion and Finney).

The finale defeat against the United States in the 1950 World Cup, and a brace of heavy losses against Hungary a few years later, shattered this idyl and England did poorly in the 1954 finals. Steady improvement, including victories over world champions West Germany and Brazil, raised hopes for the 1958 World Cup. But the Munich tragedy fatally weakened the team and, despite drawing with eventual winners Brazil, England went out early.

Winterbottom, who worked without assistance until 1962, and had even cooked the team's meals in the 1950 finals, resigned after another disappointing World Cup in 1962.

Best match: 10-0 v Portugal (Lisbon) May 1947 F. Worst match: 1-7 v Hungary (Budapest) May 1954 F.

JOE MERCER

First game: 11 May 1974, Wales (a) 2-0
Last game: 5 June 1974, Yugoslavia (a) 2-2
P7 W3 D3 L1

AFTER THE disappointment of failing to qualify for the 1974 World Cup, Mercer put a smile back on the face of the England team in a seven-match spell as caretaker, during which England were only beaten once.

1974
0-0 Portugal (Lisbon)
1-2 Wales (Cardiff)
1-0 N Ireland (Wembley)
0-2 Scotland (Glasgow)
2-2 Argentina (Wembley)
1-1 West Germany (Leipzig)
1-2 Yugoslavia (Belgrade)
3-0 Czechoslovakia (Wembley)
0-0 Portugal (Wembley)

1975
2-0 W Germany (Wembley)
5-0 Cyprus (Wembley)
0-0 Cyprus (Larnaca)
0-0 Scotland (Edinburgh)
2-2 Wales (Wembley)
5-1 Scotland (Wembley)
2-1 Switzerland (Basle)
1-2 Czechoslovakia (Bratislava)
1-1 Portugal (Lisbon)

1976
2-1 Wales (Wrexham)
1-0 N Ireland (Membury)
1-2 Scotland (Glasgow)
0-1 Brazil (London)
3-2 Italy (New York)
4-1 Finland (Helsinki)
0-2 Italy (Rome)

1977
0-2 Netherlands (Wembley)
2-0 Scotland (Edinburgh)
1-1 Australia (Sydney)
1-1 Belgium (Turin) ECF
0-1 Italy (Turin) ECF
2-1 Spain (Naples) ECF



Best match: 1-0 v Bulgaria (Sofia) June 1974 F. Worst match: 0-2 v Scotland (Hampden) May 1974 F.



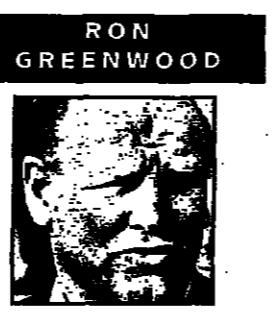
First game: 30 Oct 1974, Czechoslovakia (h) 3-0
Last game: 15 June 1977, Uruguay (a) 2-2
P55 W15 D12 L10

THE OVERWHELMING candidate, once the Football Association had decided against Brian Clough, Revie signally failed to establish the club atmosphere which had been the cornerstone of his success at Leeds.

He began well with an adventurous 3-0 victory over Czechoslovakia, soon followed by an excellent win over West Germany, the reigning world champions. However, he failed to trust such players as Alan Hudson, who was inspirational against the Germans, and performances began to slide.

The Czechs knocked England out of the European Championship, then Italy gained a decisive victory in the qualifying campaign for the 1978 World Cup. Revie decided to quit and negotiated a lucrative coaching position with the United Arab Emirates. Already known as 'Don Readees' he sold the story of his defection to a newspaper. The FA reacted by banning him from the English game but Revie had the suspension quashed in the High Court.

Best match: 2-0 v W Germany (Wembley) Mar 1975 F. Worst match: 0-2 v Netherlands (Wembley) Feb 1977 F.



First game: 7 Sep 1977, Switzerland (h) 0-0
Last game: 5 July 1982 Spain (a) 0-4
P55 W33 D12 L19

INITIALLY TOOK over as caretaker, but strengthened his hand with a stylish World Cup victory over Italy. It was not enough to gain England qualification but it did earn Greenwood, widely admired for his coaching ability at West Ham, the job ahead of Brian Clough.

He steered England to the

finals of the 1980 European

Championship but perfor-

mances in Italy were moderate.

A series of bad displays in 1981,

culminating in the World Cup

qualifying defeat in Switzer-

land, led him to decide to stay.

Despite losing to Norway

later, England qualified for Spain

and impressed with three vic-

tories in their group. But with

Keegan and Brooking suffering

from injury, they could only man-

age goalless draws with both

West Germany and Spain in the

second stage and, despite being

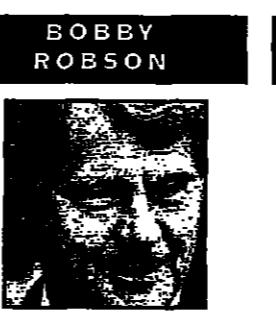
undefeated, went out.

Best match: 3-1 v Hungary (Bu-

dapest) June 1981 WCQ. Worst

match: 1-3 v Norway (Oslo) Sept

1981 WCQ.



First game: 22 Sep 1982, Denmark (a) 2-2
Last game: 7 July 1990, Italy (a), WC third-place play-off 1-2
P95 W38 D12 L19

ROBSON became the third-longest serving manager and the most successful after Ramsey, but only after being piloted by both press and public. He began badly, dropping Keegan from the first squad in an unsuccessful qualifying campaign for the 1984 European Championship which included losing at home to an unheralded Danish team. The recovery began in Rio de Janeiro, where John Barnes sparked England's only victory over Brazil in South America, the first in 12 attempts.

England initially slumped at

the 1986 World Cup but a 3-0 win

over Poland carried them into

the knock-out stage where they

were defeated by Maradona's

'Hand of God' goal.

After losing all three

matches at the 1988 European

Championship, England qualif-

ied for the 1990 World Cup,

where they lost a tame semi-

final on penalties to Germany.

Robson, who had been

informed beforehand that his

contract would not be renewed,

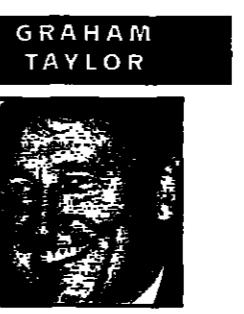
departed with honour to win a

series of club titles in Europe.

Best match: 3-0 v Poland (Wem-

bley) Sept 1993 WCQ. Worst

match: 0-2 v USA (Boston) June 1993 F.



First game: 12 Sep 1990, Hungary (h) 1-0
Last game: 17 Nov 1993, San Marino (a) 7-1
P58 W18 D13 L17

DESPITE AN outstanding career in club management, Taylor's distinguished playing career and penchant for direct football meant he had his critics even before England had played a match under him. They were never entirely silenced, despite losing one game in his first 23 matches, and eventually became a cacophony which forced him out.

He began badly, dropping

Paul Gascoigne, the hero of

Italy '90, for his first game, but

lost most support with the substi-

tution of a retiring Gary

Linerker, a goal short of Bobby

Robson's England record.

England again failed in a

European Championship final,

leading to the 'Turnip' image.

Further shambles followed

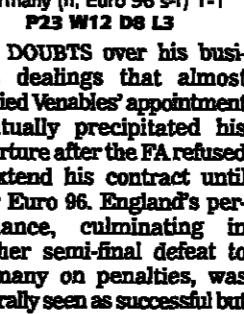
with a series of poor performances

in the Euro '96 qualifiers.

Best match: 4-1 v Netherlands

(Wembley) June 1998 EC. Worst

match: 1-1 v Switzerland (Wembley) June 1998 EC.



First game: 9 March 1994, Denmark (h) 1-0
Last game: 26 June 1996, West Germany (h), Euro 96 s-0 1-1
P23 W18 D8 L3

THE DOUBTS over his business dealings that almost stymied Venables' appointment eventually precipitated his departure after the FA refused to extend his contract until after Euro 96. England's performance, culminating in another semi-final defeat to Germany on penalties, was generally seen as successful but by then Venables' successor had been appointed.

Venables had approached

Euro 96 with a succession of

friendlies, which gradually

weaned the team from 'direct

play' to a more European style.

Most of these matches were

staged at Wembley, partly to

replicate the conditions of Euro

96, partly out of fear of what

England's hooligan support

might do - a concern that

proved justified when they

wreaked havoc in Dublin.

Further shame, this time

involving the players' behaviour

on a pre-championship tour;

preceded England into a tourna-

ment which they started

slowly before blossoming

against the Dutch, only to fail

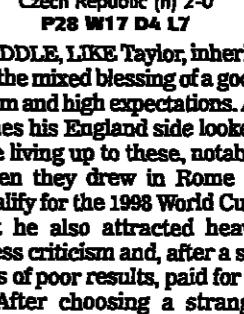
again from the spot.

Best match: 4-1 v Netherlands

(Wembley) June 1998 EC. Worst

match: 0-0 v Switzerland

(Wembley) June 1998 EC.



First game: 1 Sep 1996, Moldova (a) 3-0
Last game: 18 Nov 1998, Czech Republic (h) 2-0
P22 W17 D4 L7

HODDLE, LIKE Taylor, inherited the mixed blessing of a good team and high expectations. At times his England side looked like living up to these, notably when they drew in Rome to qualify for the 1998 World Cup, but he also attracted heavy press criticism and, after a series of poor results, paid for it.

After choosing a strange

team to meet Italy, Hoddle's

team suffered a potentially cat-

astrophic defeat at Wembley,

England's first in a World Cup tie.

This setback was overcome

by a series of staunch per-

formances, capped by the draw in

Rome, but despite the discovery

of David Beckham and Michael

Owen, England were strug-

ging as they approached the

knock-out stages but some be-

wildering selections meant they

</



SPORT



MONTY'S AMERICAN DREAM P24 • PARLOUR'S LESSONS OF LIFE P27

A chance for Keegan to bury his past

BY NICK HARRIS

AS KEVIN KEEGAN prepares for his first match as national coach, England supporters will be hoping that he does not seek inspiration from his days as the team's captain.

The *Independent* has carried out a statistical analysis of the results of every England match since 1950 in order to assess the national team's form over the past five decades. One of the study's conclusions is that the lowest point reached in the national team's fortunes came with a 2-1 capitulation to Switzerland in Basle in 1981 – and the captain that day was one Kevin Keegan.

land went on to beat Hungary twice to secure their place in the 1982 World Cup finals.

The manager at the time was Ron Greenwood, who in our analysis is in second place behind the World Cup-winning Alf Ramsey as England's most successful manager. Our study

takes into account the results of every game, the strength of the opposition and the venues. Recognition is also given to the importance of matches in World Cup and European Championships.

Although Greenwood never took England beyond the sec-

ond round of the World Cup, he was undefeated in Spain in 1982 and his sides were generally successful. Ramsey and Greenwood also occupy first and second places in a table based purely on three points for a win and one for a draw.

Terry Venables, who took

England to the semi-finals of Euro 96, is third in our list. The much-maligned Graham Taylor is in fourth place – a reflection, perhaps, of the fact that his stewardship was not quite as appalling as the collective memory leads us to believe. But for one different result against the Netherlands in late 1993 he could have led the side to the World Cup finals in 1994.

Glenn Hoddle is fifth, despite his achievement in qualifying for the 1978 World Cup. Indifferent performances in France and since last summer have dragged him down the table.

Bobby Robson, who has a

land supporters get too excited that the current national side is not as bad as they might have thought, our statistics show that the performance of Glenn Hoddle's team in France last summer was statistically the worst of any England team to reach the World Cup finals.

The 1980s was, by the same measure, England's worst post-war decade. Although the national team failed to qualify for two World Cups in the 1970s, other results in that period lifted the record above that of the 1980s in our study.

Keegan's trail
pages 23 and 24

England call surprises Armstrong

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN MOORE

KEVIN KEEGAN never quite realised the dreams of the Toon Army when he was manager at Newcastle, but yesterday he made one Geordie's fantasy come true.

Keegan, faced with the loss of three of his five strikers, called up Newcastle-born Tottenham striker Chris Armstrong for England's World Cup qualifier against Poland at Wembley on Saturday.

The summons was a shock for Armstrong, not least because he has been chosen ahead of his team-mate Les Ferdinand, who kept him on the bench for Sunday's Worthington Cup Final success over Leicester. Ironically Armstrong's first training session with the England squad will be at Wembley this morning.

Armstrong is certain to be on the bench at least on Saturday with Alan Shearer and Andy Cole likely to play up front following yesterday's withdrawal of Michael Owen. Robbie Fowler and Chris Sutton. Keegan also lost Darren Anderton who, within hours after extolling Eileen Drewery's healing powers on television on Tuesday night, succumbed to his latest groin strain.

There was better news for Keegan with both his goalkeepers, David Seaman and Nigel Martyn, showing promising improvement with their respective shoulder and back injuries.

For a coach who has spent most of his working life sur-

rounded himself with forwards, Keegan must have felt very lonely as he coached England yesterday. With Newcastle or Fulham, the solution would have been simple – phone the chairman, ask for his cheque book, and sign someone. With England it is not so simple. With so many foreign players filling the striking positions (Cole is the only English forward among the top three Premiership teams), it is a case of scouring clubs for a fit and eligible player.

Keegan came up with Armstrong whose initial international experience was playing in goal for North Wales. He later won an England B cap but has never been close to the full squad before.

The call-up caps a remarkable rise for a player who gave up the game at 16. After living on Tyneside and in South London with his natural family, he spent time in children's homes before being fostered by Roy and Pam Armstrong in North Wales. Although he played in goal for his local club he did play outfield at school but stopped at 16 to work in a burger bar for £30 a week as a YTS school leaver. A friend persuaded him to play again and he was spotted by Wrexham. Transfers to Millwall and Crystal Palace followed before

he was signed, for £4.5 million to replace Jürgen Klinsmann at White Hart Lane in August 1995.

The 27-year-old began well with 15 league goals in his first season but has since been troubled with injury. Keegan, however, said of him: "He has pace and won't let us down. He has had a good season and I know we can rely on him."

"I believed that one or two of the players who had problems might have recovered in time but we have been out of luck. With Michael Owen it was a battle against the clock and I just could not risk either him or the others."

Keegan stressed that Armstrong was in as cover and alluded to the difficulties he had faced when he pointed out that even the under-21s had lost Emile Heskey, who might have stepped up if fit.

Anderton's withdrawal increases the likelihood that either Ray Parlour or Tim Sherwood or both will make a debut on Saturday. Arsène Wenger, Parlour's club manager at Arsenal, said he was confident that Parlour could play in a central midfield role thus releasing David Beckham to play on the right where his crossing ability could prove crucial.

Wenger said: "He loves to

work for the team, has good vision, is powerful, and can provide acceleration in bringing the ball out."



The England captain, Alan Shearer, in training at Bisham Abbey this week, will be anxious to display his powers of leadership and marksmanship against Poland at Wembley on Saturday
David Ashdown

Full-time treatment for Collymore?

BY IAN RODGERS

STAN COLLYMORE is to undergo full-time treatment for clinical depression. It almost certainly means the Aston Villa striker has played his last game of the season.

The Villa manager, John Gregory, had talks with Collymore about his situation on Monday, after which it was decided that focusing totally on conquering his off-field problems was the best course of action.

Yesterday, Gregory said: "I do not expect to see him back this season. He won't be training with us at all, as we have de-

cided to send him back full-time to the clinic. It is a decision that we have reached after discussions with everyone."

Collymore has started Villa's

pera, finally (4) Operetta composer's dramatic monarch capturing hearts (5)

8 Attacked by insects, article consumed during Monday (4-5)

12 Glares unhappily during stories - lightweight material (10)

14 Aggrieved at charges, try to get in for free (9)

16 Tear strip off collar in item of luggage (9)

18 Wash imitation toy bear, removing a bit of hair (7)

19 Accepted apology connected with digging up of grave (7)

21 Is a shopping arcade unambitious? (5)

23 Nine players? Not entirely eleven, one thinks (5)

24 Athlete was a blast, we hear (4)

"Footballers live in unreal worlds... all barriers and boundaries are lost," Dr Hallstrom said. "Normal constraints of social interaction are gone – every time you go for a drink there is a photographer following you or someone else is watching you. You're never sure if people are being nice to you because they like you. They live a very unreal life."

Gregory has previously made it clear he would rather sell the player than risk further upsetting his dressing-room.

But he insists the decision to dispense with his services for the rest of the season was not

prompted by Collymore's reported criticism of the team's defence following Sunday's 3-0 home defeat against Chester.

"People can think what they like and I can't stop them," Gregory said. "But I've explained the reasons why this decision has been taken and that's the end of it."

Dr Hallstrom added that Collymore's problems were down to the stresses and strains of modern-day football.

But he insists the decision to dispense with his services for the rest of the season was not

guarantee of protection against depression, which hits the high and the low," Dr Hallstrom said.

"There is a distinction between depression and unhappiness."

"At one end of the scale is unhappiness when things go wrong for you. But at the other end is depression, which is associated with a loss of function and that is very common. One in 10 people will suffer depression in their lives."

Collymore's problem is probably stress-related. Stress is a major factor in clinical depression. The symptoms are loss of sleep, irritability, drinking and poor performance. Stress is very common. You need to go away and get some rest and catch up. You need to stop the world and get off."

©Published by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford, Herts WD1 1PL. Thursday 25 March 1999. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01992 540570. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.

ACROSS	
1	Eating implement for meat obtained by credit (9)
6	Robot's energy given to lunar vehicle (5)
9	Very fit, looking like a blur? (5)
10	What's worn at Ascot, around end of Ascot? Well I never! (5,4)
11	Principal lecturer securing a cosy billet, (all but) (10)
12	The regret is genuine (4)
14	Chap from Newcastle, say having to turn back or perish? (7)
15	Method of reducing level of shock? (7)
17	Rock child of few words endlessly? (7)
19	Keep organised with this computer language? (7)
20	Weapon taking care of mum (4)
22	Seaweed showing rare change at sea (10)
25	Wall-covering representing a gay plant (9)
26	Christian martyr almost entirely forbidding (5)
27	Orchestra in andiforum - premiere from Elgar (5)
28	Neglect or care? (9)
29	DOWN
1	DJ, perhaps, producing new version of old song (5)
2	Where high-level worker pulls out all the stops? (5,4)
3	Walk, run and climb on this? (10)
4	Not home early? When female comes in, blow up! (7)
5	Chap in the dog-house, having left out half of them? (7)
6	Artist's going to try tem-

TOUCHDOWN INSIDE

THURSDAY REVIEW

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APDOCA LYDSE now

Basler's
blow to
German
morale

INSIDE



"The heads had been taken just a few hours before, and they looked... they looked like all the other heads I had seen. I have never worked in such conditions before, and nor has anyone I know. I don't know how to describe what I feel, but it is something close to shame"

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

WITH THE CANNIBALS OF BORNEO

I saw my sixth and seventh heads on Tuesday afternoon, in a Dayak village an hour's drive from the town. They were visible from a few hundred yards away, standing on oil drums on either side of the road, with a crowd of about 200 people milling around them. Most of the onlookers were men, but there were young women and children there too. "What do you want to do?" said the man who was accompanying us, a Dayak leader in his fifties. I said I wanted to have a look. We walked up towards them, past the warriors with their spears and red headbands and hunting rifles. Even in big cities in Indonesia, people shout greetings when a foreigner passes by, but these people looked at me with indifference. The heads had been taken just a few hours before, and they looked like all the other heads I had seen.

They were a middle-aged couple, a few years younger than my own parents. Their ears and lips had been shaved off with machetes, giving them a snarling, sub-human look. The wife's nose had also been removed, and a cigarette had been pressed into the cavity. Her eyes were clenched tight shut, and above them an atrocious wound had been cut deep into her forehead. Why did I take photographs of the heads, knowing perfectly well that no newspaper could ever print them? Was it really in order to document the event and gather evidence? Or were there baser, more prurient motives?

I have never worked in such conditions before, and nor has anyone I know. The experience produces two contradictory reactions. The first is relief, along with secret pride, in finding oneself able to confront horror without being overcome by fear or nausea. The second reaction takes the form of troubling questions which nag at you at odd moments. Why am I not more upset by this? What is wrong with me? I don't know what to call such an emotion, but it is something close to shame.

Two years ago, when a similar war broke out between the Dayaks of Borneo and the hated settlers from the island of Madura, few people outside the island realised the scale of what had happened. I visited Borneo more than three months later and spent a week searching for evidence of cannibalism and headhunting. I found several witnesses, some grisly photographs, and a few skeletons in the jungle, but not the proof that I secretly knew I was looking for.

Afterwards, I wrote two long newspaper articles and a 30-page magazine account - 20,000 words altogether - all about failing to find a severed head. In the past six days I have seen seven of them, along with a severed ear, two arms, numerous pieces of heart and liver, and a dismembered torso being cooked over a fire by the side of the road - and I find myself at a loss over what to say. The most devastating thing about cannibalism and headhunting is not the fear and the blood, but the terrible, profound banality.

There were 2,000 Madurese living in the area around the village of Montrado when the violence erupted after the murder of a Dayak boy last Tuesday. Along the coast, killings had been going on for a month, and more than 10,000 people were evacuated. But, unlike those who lived close to the main road, there was little chance for the inlanders to evacuate, and their only choice was to flee into the jungle in the hope of reaching the town of Singkawang.

This is one of the most isolated parts of Indonesia, but the narrow roads through it are thronging with people. Dayak warriors gathered from scattered parts of West Kalimantan. Every 200 yards you come across another road-block or a patrol, and you have to slow down and hand out cigarettes, and reassure them that there are indeed no fleeing Madurese in this car.

An hour or so after seeing the heads, just after the human barbecue, we are waved down by a group of young warriors on the road. My Dayak friend is nervous. The local leaders and civil servants - Christians, like almost all their people - know that they have lost all control here and are wary of squandering what little authority remains to them. A few minutes earlier, I had found myself parting with a 10,000 rupiah bill (about 75p), a "loan" as it was called, to a tall young man carrying a transparent bag of liver tied to his belt. Now, as our Jeep slows, another warrior opens the door, smiles apologetically and jumps into the back. Great, I think to myself. First, I gave a cannibal a tip - now I am giving them taxi rides.

Our cannibal is a teenager. He is shirtless and wears neat denim jeans and worn trainers. In his hand he carries a sheathed mandau, a hacking machete, with a red-painted handle carved into the shape of a horse. It appears to be brand new, the kind of thing you would buy from a tourist craft shop. When the Dayaks are on the trail of a flagging victim, they wail out "Woo-woo-woo-woo-woo!" like Apaches in a western movie. My new friend looks like nothing so much as the participant in a giant game of cowboys and Indians.

He is chattering with excitement about the things he has seen and done. He tells us that the man whom they are cooking on the road was caught this morning. "We killed it and we ate it," he says, "because we hate the Madurese." He has taken part in four killings himself. "Mostly we shoot them first, and then we chop the body. It tastes just like chicken. Especially the liver - just the same as chicken."

I tell him about the conversation I had earlier with a village chief, who saw the heads of several children, including two babies, but he shakes his head and laughs. "We don't kill babies! If we find a baby we give to other people. In fact we found a kid and a baby and we saved them."

"How old does someone have to be before you will kill them?" I ask.

"Around 13 or 15," he says.

"Why do you kill them? Why don't you just send them all away?"

"Because we hate them."

Twenty minutes down the road, he gets out at his village. He is bubblingly grateful. We have saved him a long walk at the end of a long, exciting day. Our driver, a garrulous Christian from the island of Flores who has lived around here for years and seems to know everyone, speaks up. "You know, I've been all over this country - to Sumatra, to Java, all over eastern Indonesia," he says, "and these people - they're the nicest, the friendliest, the best. There's no one like them."

He is perfectly serious, and what he says is true. There can't be any doubt that this is evil in its most bestial form, a 20th-century heart of darkness. But these are not evil people, and this is not an evil place.

Borneo is the world's second-biggest island. It is a rich, equatorial land of forests, gold mines and plantations, but the people who live here are poor. The Dayaks are its original inhabitants, a scattered collection of different tribes who have lived in Borneo for thousands of years, dwelling in communal houses, practising a form of animism, and surviving by hunting and by slash-and-burn agriculture. Dayak warriors increased their prestige and brought good luck to their villages by collecting the heads of rival tribes in highly ritualised, set-piece raids. Certain of the victims' organs, including the heart, brains and blood, were believed to bestow potency on those who consumed them, and the heads were preserved and worshipped in elaborate rituals.

Borneo's coastal areas are dominated by Muslim people called Malays, although the majority of them are ethnic Dayaks whose conversion to Islam began in the 15th century. Over the centuries, and especially in the 20th, other races have settled to form sizeable communities from all over the vast Republic of Indonesia - Chinese, Javanese, Sundanese, and Bugis from the island of Sulawesi. Then there are the Madurese.

What is it about the Madurese?

They come from a small, dry, barren island off the east coast of Java and, throughout Indonesia, they are frankly reviled. Two beliefs in particular are almost universal. The first is that Madurese women, for reasons too technical to decently explain here, are exceptionally gifted lovers. The second is that the Madurese character makes them impossible to live with. According to this view they are clamorous, aggressive and predatory. By tradition, Madurese men carry curved rice-sickles, called *cilurit*, which they use at the slightest provocation.

"They cannot exist peacefully alongside others," a Chinese friend said to me. "Madurese just love to fight and steal." Hearing this often enough, you begin to believe it. But it also sounds unpleasantly like the kind of consensus that has built up at various times about Romany gypsies, or about Jews.

I have never got to know a Madurese. But Borneo's other people, like most Indonesians, are indeed kind and welcoming folk. All over the island, and for decades, mining and plantation companies from Jakarta have seized land which, for thousands of years, they have regarded as their own. Under Indonesian law, any land for which there is no written title belongs by default to the government. The Indonesian word

that you hear over and over again is "odat", usually translated as "traditional law". It is *odat* which is violated when somebody steals durians from the tree that has always belonged to your ancestors, or waves a sickle at you when you remonstrate with him. "In the eyes of Dayaks," a Catholic Dayak teacher said, "when people do not respect our *odat*, they become enemies, and we don't consider our enemies to be human any more. They become animals in our eyes. And the Dayaks eat animals."

But who would do this, even to an animal? Decapitation and cannibalism are deeply symbolic practices, the ultimate humiliation of a defeated enemy. Cut someone's head off and you reduce him to a pantomime mask. This is the point about severed heads - they don't look fearful so much as comical, like Hallowe'en pumpkins. After dropping off my cannibal, I drove back to the town's hotel where a number of journalists sat in the bar - cameramen who had spent the day taking pictures that will never be printed, and reporters with notebooks full of events they will never properly be able to explain.

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At The Live Centre



Letters	2	Arts	9
Leaders and comment	3-5	Film	10-12
Obituaries	6-7	Fast Track	13
Features	8	Law	13

Listings	15-16	EDUCATION &
Radio	17	FAST TRACK
Satellite TV	17	
Today's TV	18	

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Crisis over Kosovo

Sir: I am a British citizen living and working in the north of Yugoslavia. I teach English and am involved in teacher training.

I have chosen not to leave the country, and instead to share the fate of my hosts. Much as I dislike the dictatorial system of government in Yugoslavia and disapprove of the brutal way the Kosovo crisis has been handled so far, I am completely opposed to Nato intervention in general and air strikes in particular.

It is clear to me that the Serbian government will not be bombed back to the negotiating table, however considerable the damage caused by air strikes. By allowing military action to take place, I fear the West are letting themselves in for a long and bloody conflict that would soon involve a number of other countries and entail the loss of many innocent lives.

JOHN ROGERS
Novi Sad, Yugoslavia

Sir: Bombing Kosovo is illegal, immoral, impractical, and very dangerous for us all.

Illegal because the UN charter expects unanimity amongst the permanent members of the Security Council before war starts. Two members out of five are against the war.

Immoral because this is not a just war. The level of force proposed, and which will be necessary after the inevitable escalation, is out of proportion to the problem. And we are closest partisans: we want the KLA to win.

Impractical because remote action will not be effective.

Withdrawal of the OSCE monitors has already precipitated atrocities by the Serbs. In the second World War the Germans with all their military might and punishment killings could not overcome the Yugoslav Partisans. In Vietnam the US burnt civilians with napalm from a high but had to engage with them on the ground as well.

Dangerous because escalation is inevitable. The world will be drawn into it.

So our policy must be changed. We have to stop posturing as policeman, prosecutor, judge, jury and jailer when we think it suits us. If we feel justified we should send our army into the field to separate the combatants. That would lead to loss of our own people, but probably not as many as will fall when the present policy leads us into long and deep conflict.

In parallel we should mount a strong humanitarian aid programme. These people are part of Europe; one day we shall want to see them in the European Union. Then we shall spend vast sums to facilitate their accession. Let us spend a bit of that straight away.

JOHN DEXTER
Hythe, Hampshire

Sir: During the Second World War, Yugoslav partisans tied up tens of thousands of Axis troops backed by a Luftwaffe with total air supremacy. The partisans, aided by Allied advisers, were never subdued.

This is not to excuse the actions of the appalling Milosevic regime. Rather it is to point out that the current generation of Western leaders pay insufficient regard to the recent past.

When Britain was blitzed in 1940 the country's resolve to fight on alone was strengthened. Germany was almost razed to the ground by the RAF and the USAAF, but, as I and others still around knew to our cost, their troops fought hard to the bitter end.

No, I don't have a solution to the problem of why people are persuaded to kill each other any more than I had when as a teenager in khaki I scrambled from a tank wrecked by gunfire a couple of days before the war ended. But I know that history has a habit of repeating itself.

TONY HEATH
Brecon, Powys

Sir: With only sticks and no carrots in this deal, the Serbs really have no choice but to oppose the ongoing destruction and partition

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity



HMS Invincible No 4: An Arab dhow adrift in the Gulf is treated with suspicion at first, but a boat lowered from Invincible establishes that the vessel is out of fuel. The aircraft carrier supplies the local sailors with enough diesel to complete their journey to Iran, free of charge

Neville Elder

of their homelands. If economic sanctions against Yugoslavia were lifted, Nato guaranteed the safety of Kosovo's non-Albanian population and issues of Yugoslavia's territorial sovereignty were unquestioned, then Milosevic might be more amenable to make a deal.

Bombing the Serbs will remove any remaining diplomatic leverage that could have been exerted over Milosevic, possibly giving him an excuse to expand an estimated 400,000 illegal Albanian immigrants in Kosovo. This would create a worse humanitarian nightmare than we have currently.

DR MICHAEL PRAVICA
Yonkers, New York, USA

Sir: The West has been manoeuvred by the Albanians into helping them achieve their aims, using the now familiar Balkan ploy of maximising the televised misery of their own citizens.

Trapped by their own rhetoric, "our leaders" dare not pressure the Albanians, whose military forces started an armed insurrection they could never hope to win and whose political leaders refused to use the massive electoral advantage in Kosovo to vote their own representatives to Serbia's parliament and change things democratically.

Why should "our boys" be sent to die for a Greater Albania?

BRIAN POCOCK
London W6

Sir: The US is violating a number of international laws in attacking Serbia.

Article 2 of the UN Charter prohibits the use of force against a sovereign state where it has not committed aggression on other states.

Nato's own charter claims it is a defensive organisation only committed to force if one of its members is attacked.

The so-called Rambouillet "agreement" (there was no agreement by Serbia) is a violation of the 1980 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties

which forbids the use of coercion and force (such as Nato bombs) to compel any state to sign a treaty or agreement.

The Helsinki Accords Final Act of 1975 guarantees the territorial frontiers of the states of Europe.

If the sequel to the bombing is recognition of Kosovo as an independent state, this will violate international law that prohibits recognition of provinces that unilaterally declare independence.

These unlawful actions will set precedents that will undermine stability elsewhere in the world.

GEORGE C THOMAS
*Department of Political Science
Marquette University
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA*

Sir: The last regime which resolved to eradicate the Serbian threat was the Third Reich.

We certainly are in illustrious company.

DAVID JOHNSON
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Helping the able

Sir: What a relief to read such a well-researched and well-argued article as Deborah Orr's piece on Labour education policy

Sir: I saw Shakespeare in Love and at the time thought it witty, intelligent and entertaining. I realise, having read "It's total tosh" (23 March), that I was wrong. I am ashamed and will remember to check with Howard Jacobson in future before I laugh or enjoy a film or play.

ROBERT SMITH
Mersham, Surrey

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PANDORA

IT'S MORNING - and over at London's *Evening Standard* it's time to select some snaps to brighten up the first edition which the huntin', shootin', fishin' editor Max Hastings hopes will squish Associated's impertinent in-house rival, *Metro*. The *Standard* picture editor David Ofield opines that "Benetton's back in fashion". The editor's face brightens. "Really? That's interesting," Hastings says. "Put a top writer on that." Conversation continues about the garment-maker, but suddenly this country-lovin' Hastings' face falters. "Benetton? Benetton? What's Benetton?" I thought you said 'venison'."

CATCH A Falling Star Dept: The citizenry of Buckinghamshire's Chalfont St Giles are not overawed by celebrity. A school auction there this week raffled off Gary Lineker's football (£20) and Noel Edmonds' jumper (£20) - but an evening's babysitting by the local headteacher, Kim Robinson, fetched £100.

HE'S FIT He's fat. And he's in trouble with the tax man. Luciano Pavarotti is appealing against a £4m tax demand from the Italian authorities, claiming he was domiciled in Monte Carlo from 1989 to 1991. Signor Esattore-delle-tasse doesn't see it that way because the tenor's flat in the principality is "relatively modest". Given that tax avoidance in Italy is a national sport, this one hasn't started until the fat guy sings.

KOSOVO? NORTHERN Ireland? There are weightier matters on the minds of the Tory A-team. "The only possible outcome," says William Hague, "of inclusion of the EU flag on numberplates is European propaganda at the expense of road safety." Excuse me? Will the site of a little blue flag drive Eurosceptics into the red mist of road-rage? Coming Soon: Little Willie takes a tough stand on carpet tiles.

FASCINATING FACT: Robbie Williams (pictured) was once the shrimp-cocktail-eating champion for Whitley Bay. And he's currently "on a diet of baltis and kebabs", he will tell the Carlton Food Network this Friday.

SUBTLES FOR THE Slangue-Impaired. Today: diplomacy. What diplomats say is followed by Pandora's take on what they mean. "All

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IND438

The Raj lives on in our restaurants



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN
The finest Indian food is still not given such adoration as even bad French or Italian food

IN MY particular Muslim community during feasts and wedding parties, we always serve rich sweets, such as *laddoo* (sugary, orange balls made of chickpea flour) and *borfi* (buttery nut fudge), before the main course. My mother explains that it is important to sweeten people up before hitting them with the hot and heavy: "They receive it better, because the sweet is on the tongue."

So let me do the same. I enjoy the way white Britons love Indian food. I was inordinately delighted to watch a young Englishwoman on television explaining that she had to leave her Sicilian husband and go back home because she missed the curries too much. I enjoy the power I can exert over my English husband, who will do anything I ask if and when I cook Indian. I constantly bore anyone who cannot avoid me with a stream of fantastic facts, such as: Indian food has a turnover that is higher than coal, steel and shipbuilding combined, and chicken tikka is one of Marks & Spencer's biggest exports.

Our cooking has friends in both high and low places now. The frosty Daily Telegraph describes curry as the national food of Britain, and British football fans sing vindaloo cheer-on songs. We came, we saw, we cooked - and surrendered. Or so it would appear.

But (and here comes the hot food)

all is not what it seems. What we have here is the Raj again, carrying with it lust without love, creating a

potent mixture of contempt and appropriation, of race and class. And it needs to be deconstructed if it is to be properly understood.

On the whole, the most finely crafted Indian food is still not given the adoration automatically awarded to even bad, malevolent French and Italian food.

One reason is that, like Chinese, Thai, and other "Third World" cooking, Indian food is not European. Secondly it is commonplace, too much a food of the people to be taken seriously by elitists who think they have eaten well only if their pockets have been emptied. They have been encouraged to believe this by our precious food critics who stride the metropolis with self-importance.

Now, the last time I wrote about this subject, foodies such as Fay Maschler and Drew Smith whipped themselves into such outrage that I thought I would get my deportation orders and be put on a boat to Bombay. These people have tender, sensitive skin. They can dole out merciless judgements but must not be touched themselves.

But I ask again. Why have food

critics perpetuated such an iniquitous hierarchy of foods, which almost always places Indian food on the lower rungs however good it is?

And if you think I'm whining, read what that usually snobbish food critic AA Gill writes of Vineet Bhadra, an Indian restaurant in Hammersmith: "It's shamming to point out, but if Bhadra cooked in the French or Italian vernacular, or came from New York, he would be hailed as a superchef. His recipes would be published in glossy magazines, his beautiful home explored in *Hello!* magazine." Just so, just so.

And that is not all. Our humiliation carries on. Those who break through this wall of prejudice and seek to claim credence and status are also almost all white. Pat Chapman, a cheerful, helpful chap who runs the Curry Club of Britain, is now the proclaimed "king" of curries. None of our top-selling recipe books are by British Asians. Publishers would not dream of investing in writers such as the inimitable food writer Mridula Balajekar or the way they do for Delia Smith.

The only exception is Madhur Jaffrey, who is an Indian living in the United States. None of the newspaper chefs are Asian. And, worst of all, according to the Glasgow Media Group, the highly popular and proliferating television cookery programmes totally exclude Asian chefs. They don't feature any of the other non-white groups, either give or take an Ainsley Harriet.

Week in and week out you get Nigel and Nigella, Antonio and Antony, Rick and Robert et al indulging in loving cook-ins, neglecting to ask in (even as guest chefs!) any Asian chef, and appropriating our recipes and presenting them to the world as if they had sprouted in their own enthusiastic little hearts.

I wouldn't mind if our top chefs

from restaurants such as Café Laikeez, The Star of India, Soho Spice and Southall's Gito Lahori were given the chance to cook and blab about how to boil the perfect egg and make a hearty custard.

But that, as the Glasgow study says is "unimaginable". If this isn't the new colonialism, then I don't know what is.

Here's a unique chance to create a Europe that works



HAMISH MCRAE
Were you designing the European Commission now, you would make something very different

PATCH AND fiddle or think anew? You have to be profoundly pessimistic to think that the reconstructed European Commission will not make radical changes to the way it operates - if only because were it to fail to reform itself, the European Parliament would bite its head off again. But there is, nevertheless, a profoundly important choice its new leader, Romano Prodi, will have to face. Does he take the broad line of development of the Commission of the past, and indeed of the EU itself, as a given? Or does he take the opportunity of rethinking the Commission's whole *raison d'être*?

You do not get many shots at reforming large bureaucracies; this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Were you designing the European Commission now, you would come up with quite a different organisation. So, start from first principles and ask what are the comparative advantages of Europe?

Forty years ago it was clear that the various European countries provided too small a market for their large commercial companies to enjoy economies of scale. Initially in coal and steel and then more generally in other traded goods, Europe needed a common market. Most of the subsequent triumph of European development has been the result of exploiting such economies of scale. The better European companies have been able to expand across the continent, while the worse have gone to the wall.

What was needed was a Commission that could push forward the efficiencies that would result from this larger trading zone, remove barriers, promote fairer competition and so on. It also had to administer an agricultural policy, but that, from an economic point of view as opposed to a financial one, was the lesser task.

I think that the Commission deserves considerable credit for the

way it has pursued that goal. The European economy is vastly more efficient as a result of its work, and you could certainly argue that the single currency will extract further gains from economies of scale, as prices and costs become more directly comparable across Europe and greater efficiency follows.

But that is the position as of now. The nature of the world economy has moved on, and while there may well be further gains in efficiency to be made, the growth points of the world economy are no longer in manufacturing goods, but rather in services. What are Europe's strengths and weaknesses in this new world?

The most remarkable thing about Europe's economy is its diversity. Different regions are good at quite different things. There is a common theme in luxury goods: the world's best luxury products, from Paris and Milan fashions to German cars to Scotch whisky, are made in Europe.

But that apart, the variety is more notable than the similarities. While Europe as a whole has a strong record in the medium and upper-medium technologies, it is not so strong at the very top end of

the scale. Nor is it strong in the new computer-related technologies - with the exception of Scandinavia, which dominates global mobile communications, and the partial exception of the UK which does well in some software, as well as in pharmaceuticals.

From a European perspective one of the disturbing lessons of the 1990s is that many of the new information technologies have been developed in the US, and not in Europe. Indeed the gap between Europe and North America, which had been narrowing until about 1990, has started to widen again.

Why is this? I don't think it is possible at the moment to give more than an intuitive answer; but when the economic history of the Nineties comes to be written, I suspect that one key conclusion will be that Europe had, by 1990, extracted most of the gains that could be made from closer economic integration - not all, but most.

Europe was no longer big enough; it was no longer sufficient to be strong in one of the three time zones. To move forward meant thinking not Continental but global.

Companies which did that, such as the Finnish group Nokia, could dominate the world market for their products. Companies which continued to think of Europe as their main market stagnated.

Britain is in the interesting position of being the least European and most American of the EU economies. Having pulled itself back from catastrophe in the Seventies, it still has a legacy of weakness in the older industries. That legacy continues to cast a shadow over many parts of the country. But the UK has

been good at creating new industries - not as good as the US, but better than most European competitors - with around 40 per cent of the European venture capital market.

Now ask the central question.

What sort of Commission does Europe need to help it to become more competitive vis-à-vis the rest of the world over the next generation?

Given that most of the power will remain for the time being with the national governments, and given that most of the gains from economies of scale have been achieved?

I have a suggestion. It is that the Commission should start to think of itself much more as a super development agency, charged with continuing the European countries' economic success story in the very different economic conditions of the new century.

This is a task which does not particularly need big money but rather big brains.

It requires clever people to identify blockages in the path of further development and then cajole governments into clearing them, to identify growth areas in the world economy and lift Europe's game.

There are a host of practical measures on which Europe compares badly with the US. Why is Europe so bad at creating private sector jobs? Why are new business start-ups so low, and why are they lower in some countries than others? Most important of all, how can Europe turn its cultural diversity from a potential weakness into a practical strength?

This is a wholly new way of thinking of the role of government, but one more tuned to the next century.

Instead of exerting power by taxing and spending, governments all over the world are having to operate by a much more subtle mixture of forces: being an effective catalyst for change, being an efficient regulator, being a good presenter of policies. Potentially Mr Prodi has a much more interesting job than poor old Mr Santer. New century equals new politics and new Commission?

THE TITLE of this talk is "Alarms and Excursions" but when my computer saved it as "A & E" this morning, it struck me that the title "Accidents and Emergencies" might serve equally well, to illustrate the series of Elizabethan anecdotes and extracts I want to talk about tonight. Much of this draws from my book, *Shakespeare's Theatre of War*.

Of course, "The first casualty when war comes is truth", as the American senator, Hiram Johnson, put it in 1917. His remark perhaps complicates and qualifies Walt Whitman's stark view of the American Civil War that "the real war will never get into the books". The books perhaps, but the stage?

In wartime, as the phrase "theatre of war" itself indicates, the borderline between the real and the feigned is often rather more blurred. Our modern media speak of international dialogues among the major players to avoid worst-case scenarios; one recent book on the war in Yugoslavia even begins with a page of dramatics personae.

In fact the apparatus of fic-

tion has formed a series of strange coalitions with war throughout the 20th century, whether between the Gulf war and virtual-reality video-games, between Vietnam and television, between the Second World War and film or between the First World War and music hall.

In the 16th century - a culture to a large extent determined by the theatricality of power - the technologies of war and the resources of fiction often overlapped on the stage. What war was this?

Surely Elizabeth the First's was a golden age presided over by the Virgin Queen, the goddess of justice and virtue and peace? Well, in fact, between 1585 (when she first committed English troops to the Low Countries) and 1604 (when her successor King James negotiated peace at the Somers House conference) Elizabeth reluctantly waged against Philip the Second of Spain what has recently been acknowledged as "one of the longest wars" in English history. I say "acknowledged" because most of us - indeed most Shakespearean scholars

- still tend to remain disproportionately impressed by Tudor propaganda to the effect that England fought just one battle in Shakespeare's lifetime, a battle that was won at sea. Between 1585 and 1604 one hundred thousand Englishmen were conscripted to fight abroad.

One afternoon, on 16 November 1587, a young lawyer called Philip Gawdy attended a play in a London theatre. Gawdy slips in that phrase: the practice of actors borrowing a real weapon for a fictional

"device" does not appear to have been unusual - indeed, more than one of these expensive weapons was apparently available.

In fact this sudden explosion of a real bullet from a theatrical prop was an accident waiting to happen. For the real Philip Henslowe was, among other things, a churchwarden, and as such would have counted among his duties the maintenance of the armories that church halls had become (the church hall used for drill in *Dad's Army* accurately represents the endurance of this tradition into our own century).

Much of the military vocabulary we now use - ambush, alarm, squadron, infantry, trench - formed a linguistic invasion altogether more successful than any Spanish Armada's. Molotov cocktail, Jeeps, bazookas, the Blitz, MiGs and Scuds have all found their way into 20th-century English for the same reasons as "musketees," "battery," "artillery" and "bank" did in the 16th century.

I just want to say: that is all; thank you very much for your attention: and fall out.

JULY 1999

Pipon het Ru Bad to I was A S

The Pinochet Ruling: Chile's leading author and one of Britain's top barristers comment on yesterday's judgment

Bad news for torturers

THE REAL beneficiary of the Law Lords' ruling on General Pinochet is the Home Secretary, whose decision whether to extradite him to Spain for crimes committed between 1973 and 1990 is now straightforward and non-political. Pinochet is charged with ordering, on 24 June 1989, the torture by electric shock of a 17-year-old girl, Marcos Quezada Yanez, who died as a result. Just as Spain will extradite Kenneth Noye over a road-rage killing, so Britain must send there for trial a man who is accused of a more cold-blooded barbarity.

What is clear from yesterday's long and complex judgments is that this decision - by six opinions to one - confirms the historic achievement of the first House of Lords in ruling that the armour of sovereign immunity, which has hitherto protected tyrants and torturers, has an Achilles' heel. It was located, in Pinochet's case, in the allegation that he instigated widespread and systematic torture, "a crime against humanity" which Britain, Spain and Chile had bound themselves by Convention to punish wherever it occurred. It was a crime of such unforgivable moral blackness that all the respect and dignity owed to Chile as an independent sovereign state could not be permitted to shield its former head from the consequences of his actions.

That said, the Law Lords went on to consider a special extradition point that had not been taken at the previous hearing, although it would



GEOFFREY ROBERTSON

The ruling should be followed up by making an immediate application for Idi Amin's extradition

undoubtedly have been raised in the course of the extradition proceedings (by taking it at this stage, the judges have in fact saved further delay).

Most of them found that the "double criminality" rule limited extradition crimes to those taking place after 1988. No doubt Jack Straw will be pressed with the argument that "only" three cases of torture are alleged in this later period, but he should carefully read page 59 of Lord Hope's key speech. This explains that the true significance of these particular acts was to show that even in the last years of his dictatorship "he was a party to the use of torture as a systematic attack on all those who opposed or might oppose his government". On this basis,

Pinochet's mind was as guilty in 1988 as it had been in 1973 - more so, in fact, because by that later stage he had no armed opposition.

There will be disappointment among torture victims that Pinochet cannot, as a result of an obscure extradition rule, be put on trial for the murders and tortures he ordered during, and five years after, his overthrow of democracy in 1973. This is regrettable, but has one great merit: it pulls the rug entirely from under Pinochet's supporters. They have, in the last few months, created a cottage propaganda industry claiming that the General had to kill Chileans in order to save them from Cuba-style communism - that they were better dead (or destroyed by torture) than red.

This argument may be a perversion of history, but on any view it cannot apply to torture and murder in 1988, 15 years after Salvador Allende's death. There may be only three charges left in the Spanish prosecution, but they allege such a degree of indefensible wickedness - a dictator's determination to abuse his unthreatened power - that the case for extradition is overwhelming.

What has become crystal clear in recent months is that Pinochet will never stand trial in Chile. There have been cases brought against him by relatives of those who disappeared under his orders, all consolidated before Judge Juan Guzman of the Santiago Appeals Court, who recently explained, "I am

prevented from issuing any kind of arrest warrant", because of the amnesty Pinochet bestowed on himself in 1978 and because he will always enjoy immunity as "Senator for life". Even if these immunities were in some way ended, the issue of any warrant against the General would automatically remove his case to a military court, where his acquittal would be a foregone conclusion.

The other false claim his supporters make is that Chile has reached a South Africa-style "national reconciliation". It did have a truth commission, chaired by Senator Retig, which reported in 1992 on the extent of the killings and the torture, but which was prohibited

from "naming names" and identifying those responsible. Bishop Tito Tobia's Commission was altogether different, offering a "plea bargain" immunity only to those who were prepared to confess the full truth and to give evidence for the prosecution in future criminal trials.

Pinochet has never apologised, although he has joked that the "disappearance" saved the cost of coffins. If he remains out of the country, fighting extradition and then a trial in Spain, the Chilean government may have the courage to set up a proper truth commission to unmask the pre-1988 crimes of Pinochet and his executioners.

The Pinochet case marks a significant advance in international human rights law. The breach in "sovereign immunity" has been hailed by Mary Robinson, Richard Goldstone and other leading jurists, and it must not be tarnished by allowing Pinochet to return to a hero's welcome from his followers in Chile. In fact, the ruling should be followed up by making an immediate application for Idi Amin's extradition from Saudi Arabia.

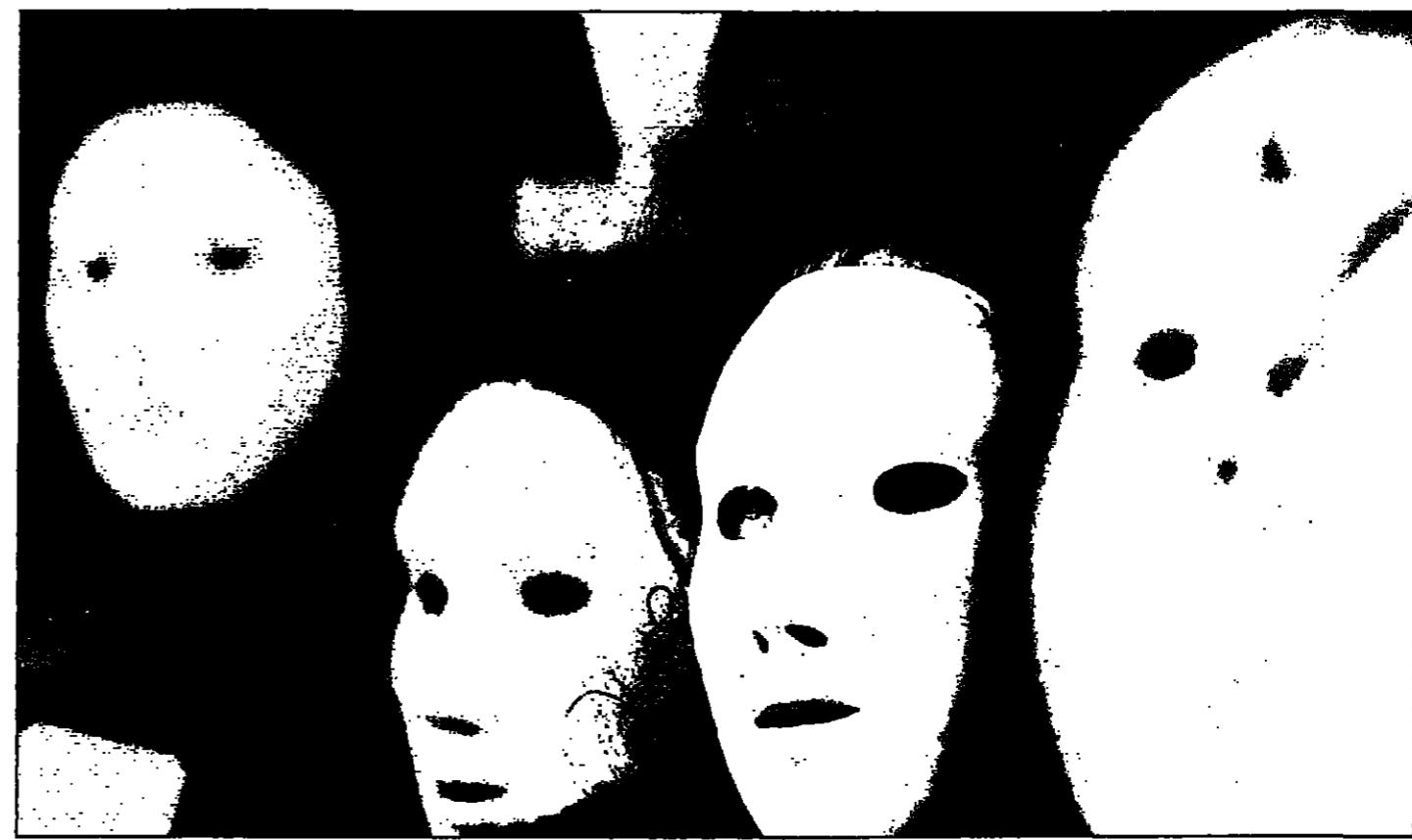
His position as a former head of state would not make him immune from prosecution at the Old Bailey for the murders of British citizens during his rule in Uganda.

There will, inevitably, be disappointment that Pinochet cannot be

prosecuted in Spain for the bulk of his crimes, but this should be tempered by the advances the case has made in human rights law. Britain can take some credit, too, for the fact that its courts have bent over backwards to be fair to this man, compared with the utter lack of fairness he meted out to his victims who were denied any form of legal process.

At least, if there is retribution for just one family, that of Marcos Quezada Yanez, some justice will have been done.

Geoffrey Robertson QC is author of "The Justice Game", published in paperback this month by Vintage



Anti-Pinochet demonstrators represent the 'disappeared' of Chile at a rally in London

Kieran Doherty

I was blessed to be here on this happy day

IT IS a great day for humanity, a great, final gift to conclude this terrible and murderous century.

Fate blessed me by letting me arrive in London yesterday, just in time to stand outside the House of Lords to hear the good news that Augusto Pinochet Ugarte does not enjoy immunity for having been head of state when he ordered people to be killed and tortured. I was able to hear from the mouths of the English judges that the Chilean dictator could not hide behind the spurious mantle of sovereignty to escape justice. I know a rocky road lies ahead, and that the process promises to last for years, embroiled in appeals and pressures, but our impossible dream in all these years - that the General would have to sit in the same place as his victims - appears ever nearer.

I recognise that this process creates a dilemma, at least for

Chileans. The fact that Pinochet will be judged far from his home absolves Chileans from having to do so themselves. The same distance that has enabled him to be imprisoned may serve as a cushion and a screen to prevent us confronting our past.

If Pinochet is imprisoned today in England and perhaps one day in Spain, the General has us Chileans imprisoned in turn, arguing ad infinitum over his image.

What I need to know more than Pinochet's future is Chile's future: how can we go beyond his figure, beyond his legacy? What will happen, now that his trial in Europe will go ahead?

There are so many factors and so many actors that it would be stupid and foolhardy to prophesy the future. Will the armed forces react, as they have threatened, with some action that expresses their "state of

tension", pressurising the government even more than they are already doing? Will the right wing now see the chance to rid themselves of the burden of the dictator who brands them as supporters of a man who has crushed human rights and is the pariah of the planet? And, the crucial question: how will the legal proceedings affect the forthcoming presidential elections?

The challenge that faces us can be summed up in a scene I witnessed a few months ago, on my last visit to Chile. It was one of those typical scenes of Chilean daily life that contain more insights than all the political analyses.

We had gone out, Angelica and I, to walk through downtown Santiago. Suddenly I heard a roll of drums and saw in the distance red flags that fluttered in the warm summer breeze of the Paseo Ahumada. I

dressed like medieval fools, their faces painted with many colours, some advancing on stilts, others jumping about on a happy caravan that daringly invited the public to a theatre festival. It was a carnival celebration of arts, full of tricks and good humour.

However, hardly had this band of youngsters passed by than another group appeared, marching slowly and solemnly on the same street: the mothers and sisters and wives of the "disappeared", the association of relatives of those murdered for politics, members of a movement against torture. Here were the women who - for more than 25 years - had fed the fire of memory, refusing to forget their loved ones who had succumbed in some dark and sordid cellar in this very city. They had been waiting for this day when the man who had scorned them could no longer ignore them, when this man

had to take responsibility for his violations of human rights.

While I watched these mothers of the Chilean dead pass by, I heard a female voice: "Shitty communists! Liars! We should have killed all of you." I turned and saw a slender woman, fashionably dressed, elegant, fifty-ish. Reactionary, bitter, she spat the words as if to herself, but making sure that everyone heard her clearly.

Watching this woman, who looked with fury at the same march that filled me with so much emotion, seeing her rigid body, her stony inability to understand another's pain, I felt a return to the worst moments - not of the dictatorship, but of the Fascist protests against the Allende government, and I felt my stomach knot with an irrational fear.

I knew to what this hatred could lead; I knew what happens when a woman like her rises up with all the

power in her hands and does what she likes and thinks that no one will ever ask her to account for herself. She spoke those words so that people like me would never forget who had won that war.

And I learned something else on that street corner: General Pinochet is the anchor of the identity of that woman and she wasn't going to let anything in the world bring him to justice. This woman represents a third of the country. A third that has ruled for decades, perhaps centuries in Chile, but has discovered that it doesn't rule abroad. The future of the country cannot be built with this woman. But we cannot imagine and form the future without her. Can we advance beyond Pinochet?

The author will be reading from his latest novel, "The Nanny and the Iceberg", in London this week as part of the Word festival

A singular black female

THURSDAY BOOK

REMEMBERED RAPTURE:
THE WRITER AT WORK

BY BELL HOOKS, THE WOMEN'S PRESS, £8.99

IN THIS exhilarating collection of essays, written over 20 years, the black American feminist writer, critic and academic, Bell Hooks examines the hows, whys and whos of writing. She delves into the ways that class, race and gender affect writing, reading and publication. She describes the link between her writing and her spiritual practice, and tackles the difficulty of reconciling the public nature of intellectual work inside and outside the university system, with "that space of writing that is always intimate, private, solitary". She celebrates the women writers whose work has touched her life. And she confronts the critics who have accused her of writing too much (this is her 17th book), or too broad a range of subjects.

One of hooks's bugbears is the way publishers and reviewers tend to pigeonhole writers by one aspect of their identity. She's against lazy definitions, not against the attempt to define per se. Asserting the contributions that race, class, gender, politics, sexuality and so on make to an author's work, she writes that "I am a writer who is black and female. These aspects of my identity strengthen my creative gifts... By fully embracing all the markers that situate and locate me, I know who I am."

One reason why hooks's identity-markers strengthen her gifts is that few non-fiction

authors have grown from the same earth. Her work is different, refreshing and relevant. She challenges the publishing industry's assumption that writing by white women is of general interest, whereas work by black women will sell only to black women.

She also highlights why the craft and act of writing is so important to her: If you grow up surrounded by intelligent people who have not had the chance to attain literacy, reading and writing skills assume the highest value: "They never let me forget that I was blessed... To read and write was to partake of a sacrament".

This explains, in part, why she champions confessional writing: a genre devolved both by the chat-show epidemic, which reduces confession to a symbiotic relationship between exhibitionism and prurience, and by the New Ageism that proclaims all "therapeutic" writing good, irrespective of how well it is crafted. In the essay "telling all: the politics of confession", she criti-

cises Kathryn Harrison's tale of father-adult daughter incest, *The Kiss*, for its narcissism and racial undertones. She also points out that, had Harrison been more influenced by feminism, "her dangerous liaison might never have taken place". For hooks, well-written confessional writing requires rigorous honesty and technical adeptness. The writer must understand "the critical difference between confession as an act of displacement and confession as the beginning stage in a process of self-transformation".

Confessional writing should evolve and evoke its author's identity as writer and human being.

It should also inform. In "from public to private: writing bone black" (*Bone Black* being hooks's dreamlike, painful and unsensual memoir of a misfit black girlhood), she describes how she started that book as "a psychoanalytic effort to understand the past", but published it to address the "paucity of information about black girlhood".

Elsewhere, hooks details her Christian upbringing, her studies of Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism - and her ambitious, rational and distinctly unfashionable aim of integrating her spiritual life with her intellectual life. She also explains her pen name. Bell Hooks was her great-grandmother, and she took her name to "serve as a constant reminder that I was not my ideas, that they did not represent the voice of a fixed identity". It sounds hokey, out of context, but is a liberating and direct connection to the heritage of which hooks is proud, but not uncritical.

On the other hand, it seems weird to find someone who writes so much and so effectively in the first person, and who incorporates a wealth of autobiographical material in her work, using a pseudonym. But, if I am not my ideas, then I guess it follows that I am also not my story.

Accessible, lucid and down-to-earth - even when dealing with spiritual practice - these essays breathe a vivifying intelligence, and a willingness to engage inclusively with readers and writing. The essays on Toni Morrison, Ann Petry,



Nobel laureate Toni Morrison

Kosovo children appeal to Independent readers

Kosovo children refugees in Albania face cold, hunger and disease as winter deepens. Many are in deep shock, having witnessed their parents and relatives killed in the awful atrocities from which they fled. Albania, the poorest country in Europe, has few resources to support the massive influx of refugees.

Your action will help children who have lost everything

The European Children's Trust needs your swift response to set up an emergency centre in Shkodra, northern Albania, to help 2500 refugees. Our centre will provide basic necessities and schooling to give security to the confused and frightened refugee children living in Shkodra.

These are children and families whose homes have been lost, perhaps forever.

Special help is needed for the traumatised children who have witnessed terrible crimes, and must now start to live a normal life.

£30 could buy emergency medicine and food supplements for 5 Kosovar refugee children for a week.

Kosovo Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KB359, 64 Queen Street, London, EC4B 4AR.

Please send what you can to save the displaced Kosovar children this winter. Call 0800 056 3686 now or cut the coupon below.

I enclose £ my choice £ to save Kosovo children. (Cheques to The European Children's Trust please). Or debit my Access/Visa/CAF card:

Card no. Expiry date

Signature Date

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address

Postcode

Telephone no.

Please return to: Tonya Barros, 110/A1, Kosovo Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KB359, 64 Queen Street, London, EC4B 4AR.

Or call 0800 056 3686 NOW.

Please act NOW - your gift will give hope

THURSDAY POEM

A BIRMINGHAM YANK
BY JOHN GOODBY

"August 1914: forget the rest - for the first time the chassis moves past the workmen. Soon, they re-invent the wheel as one hundred separate tasks, split Spic from Swede, Kraut from Klie. Basic wage \$5 a day, three shifts, no breaks. It's Taylor, PPS and the Pinkertons. Drink?"

From John Goodby's collection 'A Birmingham Yank', published at £6.95 by Arc Publications at Nanholt Mill, Shaw Wood Road, Todmorden, Lancs OL14 6DA



John Goodby

Right then we saw flash an Iron Cross with Oak Leaves, First Class, from Herr Hitler (first name "Heil") and knew he could buy and sell

the pub, the station, the whole village of BalfinCarthy. We drank all day to that Birmingham Yank; any colour he liked as long as it was black.

Accessible, lucid and down-to-earth - even when dealing with spiritual practice - these essays breathe a vivifying intelligence, and a willingness to engage inclusively with readers and writing. The essays on Toni Morrison, Ann Petry,

LISA GEE

Zora Neale Hurston, Lorraine Hansberry, Toni Cade Bambara and Emily Dickinson are celebrated but never hagiographic; those on the politics of writing and publication astute, worldly-wise, and full of critical observations that strip bare covert intellectual hypocrisy, racism and sexism. Criticisms? A repetitiveness which hooks acknowledges, and claims to be inevitable. And it would have been helpful to know the date of each piece, so as to trace over time the development of her thoughts. Overall, however, this is a fabulous collection.

LISA GEE



Professor Donald McKenzie

DONALD MCKENZIE, one of the most stimulating and influential of university teachers of his generation, was as much at home in his adopted England as his native New Zealand.

He was born in Timaru, a small town about a hundred miles south of Christchurch, in South Island. The family's means were modest. In due course, they moved to Palmerston North, in North Island, and then to Wellington. By chance, at the age of about 14, he read *King Lear*. He was profoundly affected. To hear him read passages from that play even near the end of his life, and to witness his dramatic and interpretive energies, was to begin to understand how much English drama meant to him.

But school came to an end when Don was 16, and he joined the Post Office as an apprentice, assigned to the Public Relations Department. There he struck up a friendship with the artist Don Peebles, who showed him how to understand art, and introduced him to a wider appreciation of the theatre. The Post Office encouraged him to enrol part-time in what was then still Victoria University College, to read English. The Wellington Shakespeare Society fostered his growing love of theatre, and here he met his first wife. He thought of a career in journalism and (this was the era of McCarthyism in America) came under some suspicion for his interest in Russia.

After taking his MA, he was appointed by Ian Gordon to a junior post in the English Department. A year later, he won a Leverhulme scholarship to come to Cambridge as a research student, with wife and small son. These were lonely days, and he recalled with especial affection the care given to him by Bruce Dickinson at Corpus Christi College and by Muriel Bradbrook in the English Faculty. His subject was the working conditions of printers' compositors during a period that would comfortably contain Shakespeare's adult life. However, this proved disappointing, and when after some months his supervisor Philip Gaskell drew attention to the virtually unused archives of the Cambridge University Press from the 1690s and early 18th century, he seized on them with gratitude.

It remained a source of wonder to him that the English Faculty condoned a thesis so much of which was economic history. Money from New Zealand was only sufficient for three years in all, and so he completed his newly framed PhD thesis in the remaining two.

It was no frugal and hasty apology. With its wealth of documentation and informed attention to the

relationship between the finished books and the records of their production, he brought the printing house to life, dispensed many old theories and assumptions about why books look as they do, and laid the foundation for much of the rest of his career. The resulting two volumes, *The Cambridge University Press 1696-1712: a bibliographical study*, published in 1968, remain the locus classicus on the daily running of an early printing house.

He returned to New Zealand, making use of the slow sea voyage to work away at his typewriter. Appointed to a more senior post at Victoria, where in 1969 he became Professor of English Language and Literature, for the next several years he moved between New Zealand and England, longing to be amongst the archives and libraries of England, but once there always

Bibliography, 'the discipline that studies texts as recorded forms', allows us to describe not only the technical but the social processes of their transmission'. McKenzie's lectures were a turning-point in their subject

acting to return home. With the help of microfilms of the relevant manuscripts, and slow ships, he brought together a series of surveys of apprentices of the London Stationers' Company from the 17th and 18th centuries (published in three volumes, 1961-78), and so gave new impetus to the prosopography of the British book trade.

In Wellington, in 1962 he established the Wai-te-ata Press, persuading Cambridge University Press to lend one of its oldest hand presses and beggar much of the equipment from printing houses in and around Wellington as they gradually closed down or were re-equipped. His list soon included Alastair Campbell, Iain Lomie, Peter Bland and others, some of the best writers in New Zealand at a time when it was difficult to get such work published.

With Douglas Lilburn, he established a series of scores by New Zealand composers. He became the founding Director of Downstage, the first professional theatre company in New Zealand; he took an active interest in avant-garde film; and, ever an idealist, he even thought (not for long) of politics.

Above all, he threw himself into teaching, with a vigour and intensity that earned him generations of grateful students. Whether in class, in an unscripted lecture, or on a more formal occasion, his energies and ability to hold an audience became legendary: one person describes his "hurling" his lectures at his hearers. By the time he was in his fifties, his mane of hair had turned white, adding further to a sense of occasion.

Not did his care of students end there. The innumerable demands for references continued long after his retirement, and he wrote scrupulously, with meticulous reflection on the nuances of individuals' strengths. At heart, recalling his youth, he remained often uncertain of himself; and it required a conscious effort not to be wounded by criticism that he believed mistaken.

When, in 1985, Mrs Catherine Devas founded the Panizzi Lectures at the British Library, he was the natural first choice. His subject, "Bibliography and the Sociology of Texts", was for him something of a departure, in that (among other things) he had to come to terms with aspects of French critical theory that he found unsatisfactory. Characteristically, he was still writing and adjusting almost to the moment he went on stage. In a generation already sceptical of some of the more rigid theories of textual bibliography, he sought to expand the authority of his subject. Bibliography, "the discipline that studies texts as recorded forms", "allows us to describe not only the technical but the social processes of their transmission": in these quite specific ways, it accounts for non-book texts, their physical forms, textual versions, technical transmission, institutional control, their perceived meanings and social effects. It accounts for a history of the book and, indeed, of all printed forms.

He had tested the principles first on early drama, and especially on early editions of William Congreve, and had further tested them on, amongst other "texts", the film of *Citizen Kane*. The lectures (published in 1986) have since proved to be a turning-point in their subject. They brought new friends and invitations from continental Europe, and have since been translated into French and Italian.

It was the same in departmental meetings and in committees in Wellington, Oxford and London, where he served for a while on the Advisory Committee of the British Library. In the last few years, he would sometimes acknowledge that the zeal that he threw into his arguments, and the passion with which he conducted his discussions, could be physically dangerous to his health. Some arguments he lost. In many others, sometimes seeing matters with more vision or from a different viewpoint (there was a certain advantage in being an out-

But, for his students, and for his more general audiences, the day was won by his conviction, the logical structure of his thought and writing and his intellectual, oratorical and theatrical strategies.

In 1987, he retired from Wellington. Always seeking to find 30 hours in every 24, he accepted an invitation from Oxford to a fellowship at Pembroke College and the English Faculty's readership in historical bibliography. The teaching was postgraduate, and he relished it, stretching the definition of bibliography so as to bring out infinite enthusiasm.

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McKenzie: Oxford Professor of Bibliography, 1988-96

in 1985 the library co-published his further work on this subject as *Oral Culture, Literacy and Print in Early New Zealand*.

From Oxford, aided by colleagues across the country, he planned the multi-volume *Cambridge History of the Book in Britain*, of which the first volume will appear later this year. For Oxford University Press, he worked towards a major edition of Congreve, that he has left all but completed.

His marriage to Christine Ferdinand, of Magdalen College, brought a further range of interests, and more travel. At long last, he accomplished a wish to see the old court theatre at Drottningholm in Sweden. Like others, they went round in a tourist group, and it was this white-headed professor from Oxford who pushed forward so as to have the first turn on the thunder machine - the closest he could get to the theatre in the time, if not the city of Congreve.

Formally, he retired from Oxford in 1996. His last years were dogged by heart problems, but that did not necessarily stem his energies. A prolonged visit to New Zealand last Christmas enabled him to put many of his affairs there into order, and to

see some old friends. But his dreams were never to be fulfilled of retiring for part of the year to his small house overlooking Cook Strait and as far out of Wellington as he could get while still having access to the Victoria computer. Instead, he collapsed in an Oxford library, hard at work on someone else's behalf, generous to the end.

DAVID MCKITTERICK

Donald Francis McKenzie, bibliographer and teacher, born Timaru, New Zealand 5 June 1931; Fellow, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge 1960-66; Professor of English Language and Literature, Victoria University of Wellington 1969-87 (Emeritus); Sandars Reader in Bibliography, Cambridge University 1975-76; President, Bibliographical Society 1982-83; FBA 1986; Reader in Textual Criticism, Oxford University 1986-89; Llyell Reader in Bibliography 1987-88; Professor of Bibliography and Textual Criticism 1989-96 (Emeritus); Fellow, Pembroke College, Oxford 1986-96; married 1951 Dore Haig (one son; marriage dissolved, 1994 Christine Ferdinand; died Oxford 22 March 1999).

Stefan Schnabel

AFTER a long career playing Middle European characters on stage, screen, television and radio, including a period with the Old Vic and an association with Orson Welles's Mercury Theatre, the German actor Stefan Schnabel achieved his greatest fame and public recognition with a 17-year run in the television soap opera *Guiding Light*. He accepted this with equanimity, stating, "As an actor, if your role on a soap opera is long-lasting, it's possibly the only financial security you know, and it enables you to more or less pick and choose what you want to do with the rest of your time."

The son of the concert pianist Artur Schnabel, he was born in Berlin in 1912 (his mother Therese was a singer) and after attending the University of Bonn, studied at the Gruenewald School of Acting in Germany. In 1930 the family moved from Germany to Italy, and three years later Schnabel moved to London, where he joined the Old Vic, making his debut there as an off-stage wind noise in *The Tempest* (1933).

Subsequent roles included the Soothsayer in *Antony and Cleopatra* (1934) and Morrison in *Major Barbara* (1935). As Charles in *As You Like It* (1936) he wrestled with Michael Redgrave, and he supported such stars as John Gielgud, Maurice Evans, Charles Laughton and in *Hamlet* Laurence Olivier.

Moving to New York in 1937 he found work in radio, including a role in the suspense series *The Shadow* starring Orson Welles, who asked Schnabel to join his Mercury Theatre players. He made his Broadway debut that year as Metellus Cimber in Welles's landmark production of *Julius Caesar*. Subtitled "The Death of a Dictator", it was played in modern dress, and had bold lighting effects to suggest the columns of light of the Nuremberg rallies.

Both production and performances met with acclaim and the following year Welles cast Schnabel in the adaptation of H.G. Wells's *The War of the Worlds* that started a nationwide panic when listeners thought that the United States had really been invaded by Martians. Schnabel played a Pennsylvania Dutch farmer who dies at the hands of the Martians. He recalled that after finishing his part he was sitting in the anteroom. "A few policemen trickled in, then a few more. Soon the room was full of policemen and a massive struggle was going on between the police, page boys and CBS executives, who were trying to prevent the cops from busing in and stopping the show. It was a show to witness."

Schnabel went on to appear in over 3,000 radio shows. On *This is Our Enemy* he often played Nazi roles, and during the Second World War he broadcast propaganda messages to his native Germany. Serving with the Office of Strategic Services during the war, he worked with the underground in England, Germany, France and Holland and was awarded a Certificate of Merit. He made his screen debut in Welles's production *Journey Into Fear* (1942) and on Broadway he appeared with Welles in the Cole Porter musical *Around the World in 80 Days* (1946). Other Broadway roles included *Lopakhin in The Cherry Orchard* (1944), Colonel Ikonenko in *Peter Ustinov's The Love of Four Colonels* (1953), Papa Yodler in the musical *Plaza and Fancy* (1955) and General Hotzendorf in John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me* (1969). His last principal role on Broadway was in Mike Nichols's production of *Andrew Bergman's Social Security* (1986).

His films included several spy stories - for example as the head of a Communist espionage network in *The Iron Curtain* (1948). He made over 100 television appearances in prestigious dramatic shows before his role as Dr Stephen Jackson in *Guiding Light*. He was pleased, he said, that during his 17 years with the soap opera his character evolved from a grumpy physician to a more sympathetic surgeon.

In 1947 Schnabel married the actress Marion Kohler and for 45 years they lived in Connecticut, where they founded the Rainbow Theater, appearing together there in T.S. Eliot's *The Confidential Clerk*, Dürrenmatt's *The Physicists* and other plays. In 1992 they moved to Rogaro, Italy, where they were living at the time of Stefan Schnabel's death.

TONY VALLANCE

Stefan Schnabel, actor; born Berlin 2 February 1912; married 1947 Marion Kohler (two sons, one daughter); died Rogaro, Italy 11 March 1999.



Schnabel as the spy chief in *The Iron Curtain*, 1948. Photo:est

Sir Edward Playfair

SIR EDWARD Playfair appeared on the surface to be the epitome of the Treasury knight - Eton and King's, and, after a spell in the Treasury, becoming a Permanent Secretary of a Department. In fact, Eddie Playfair was far from being a pillar of the Establishment.

He was notably unathletic at Eton, where he was a wet bob until as cox he steered his boat on the Thames into the bank. Brought to the further corner of the deep field at cricket, he sat down and met remonstrance with the indisputable fact that there was no rule against it.

He was a scholar at King's and shone in an era of specially talented Cambridge undergraduates. He took a First in Classics and then read History. He was the exact contemporary of Julian Bell, the son of Clive and Vanessa, and of Robin Brook, later a director of the Bank of England. He used to give a wicked imitation of C.P. Snow unravelling the mysteries of Dostoevsky to his acolytes.

He passed into the Inland Revenue in 1931. He was a singularly unambitious person and used to say that his one ambition was to be appointed to the Royal Mint. But his quickness of mind was such that he was soon moved in 1934 to the Treasury. He was one of the first to spot the deplorable consequences that would follow if the Morgenthau plan for pacifying Germany after the Second World War was accepted. That would repeat all the evils that Keynes had foreseen in his famous polemic against the Versailles peace treaty.

He also had a hand in financing the universities, for at that time the University Grants Committee got its grant direct from the Treasury. Playfair realised, as after the First World War, that the universities would be flooded with returning warriors and in any case needed to expand. Although the Treasury is traditionally concerned with refining public expenditure, Playfair relished being able to increase the sub-

vention to learning. He did the same for museums and art galleries and later became a member of the Fine Arts Commission. He was a master at handling the Public Accounts Committee. If something had gone seriously wrong, he made an apology so frank and abject that the committee was stunned into silence.

In 1947 he spent a year at the London end of the Control Commission for Germany and began the rundown of that over-ambitious organisation whose expenditure, including the feeding of the German population, was ruining the finances of the country. It was in the Control Commission that he got to know the new kind of professional staff officer, highly competent and hard-working, that had emerged under Alanbrooke and Monty. This was to stand him in

In a one-time civil-service tradition, he never paraded his culture or boasted of how he had 'fixed' things

good stead when, after a further nine years at the Treasury, he was appointed Permanent Under-Secretary at the War Office in 1958.

It was a difficult time for soldiers. First there was the bungled Suez expedition, then the abolition of National Service and the 1957 White Paper, which forced proud regiments to lose their separate identity and amalgamate.

Playfair liked soldiers. His sympathy and tact towards those suffering rationalisation were noted and he was appointed KCB in 1957. He

was next moved to the new department of the Ministry of Defence, set up to rationalise the three armed services. There he was less happy because he found his political boss, Harold Watkinson, less congenial than Julian Amery, with whom he had been on such good terms at the War Office.

He became a trustee and for two years chairman of the board of the National Gallery and was a most useful member of the governing bodies of Imperial College and University College London. At the time of student unrest, his sense of humour never failed him, and the militant computers and tabulators but resigned, saying that the company needed a salesman at its head. He was, however, for 18 years a director of National Westminster Bank and Glaxo, and served on the boards of other companies.

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student who had just denounced him at a meeting of the college council, demanding his resignation as a capitalist exploiter, found himself having a drink with him after the meeting was over.

But, of all academic institutions, his first love was King's, and few bouquets gave him greater pleasure than his election there as an Honorary Fellow. He was a scholar manqué. His greatest interest was in the derivation of words and his etymological discoveries found their way into the new edition of the Oxford English Dictionary. He liked duns, books and clever people such as himself.

Molly Playfair, whom he married in 1941, was a qualified doctor with a practice and together they raised three high-spirited daughters. All were with him when, in his 90th year, he lay dying of cancer. He left his affairs in meticulous order, stipulating that there should be no funeral or memorial service. In the waking intervals of his last hours, he spoke of Petronius and quoted in Greek Euripides, kindly translating for the benefit of his wife.

NOEL ANNAN

ALTHOUGH EDWARD Playfair was chairman of the National Gallery trustees for only a comparatively short period, from 1972 to 1974, writes Sir Michael Levey, his term coincided with several changes and problems and major challenges, all of which he dealt with in typically deft, equal and thoughtful manner.

He conceived of the chairman's role as essentially supportive of the director: not to initiate but to advise and warn and be consulted. Long before he became a trustee, in 1967, he had been providing invaluable guidance and support to the gallery from his post in the Treasury, and his Whitehall contacts up to ministerial level, were to be extremely useful in crises that occurred under the Heath government.

But he was not prepared for the

Norman

John Mills 1950

Stefan
Schnabel

Norman McCann

DESPITE HIS cashmere coat with its mink collar and theatrically over-wide, brimmed trilby, Norman McCann remained the same earthy East Ender he was born. An accomplished musician with a keen and innovative eye for a business deal, he will be remembered with gratitude by the young singers who continue to receive bursaries from the trust fund he established and with respect by students researching into the extraordinary musical archives he amassed during the last 30 years.

His parents, poor as any family in Twenties Deptford, nevertheless managed to keep their bright son at school until he had taken his School Certificate. At 16, he signed an indenture as an apprentice toolmaker and consequently, when war broke out, was considered too valuable to be allowed to join the Navy, for which he volunteered.

One night while he was on fire watch guarding his factory, the house next door received a direct hit. McCann escaped from the wreckage, which wrote off all the valuable machinery. At least the authorities considered that everything was written off, but, with his younger brother Stanley, he searched the ruined building examining everything they could excavate. He reckoned at least eight of the 18 lathes and drills could be saved and made such a fuss that an engineer was sent from the War Office to check them. He was right, and aged 20 was given a medal and the job of setting up a new manufacturing base with the machines, in the comparative safety of High Wycombe. It was this move which changed the direction of his life.

Opposite the factory, newly arrived from Wales, lived the Elias family and the sound of music and singing was always to be heard coming from their house. McCann, five foot nothing in his socks, met one of the daughters, Winifred Elias, a petite and pretty 14-year-old who sang with a local dance orchestra after school. Elias Elias, her father, gave music lessons and McCann signed up for a course on singing, as a way to get to know the girl who would later become his wife.

When the new factory was in full production, McCann was called up into the Army. Returning to camp too late at night with a few beers inside him, the new private burst into song in the middle of the parade ground. Two red caps hauled him in front of the sergeant and sentence was passed immediately. He was to sing a medley at the farewell concert being arranged for a colonel about to embark. A trifling error he may have been, but his wits were still about him. "Got no music, Sarge - all at home." And he gained an extra weekend pass to visit his family.

One of the songs he sang, "Ave Maria", turned out to be the Colonel's favourite. After the show, the Colonel sent for him and offered him the job of entertainments organiser; if he was prepared to sail in three days' time. McCann thanked him for the opportunity; he said he would be honoured to accept but he feared a mere private would not carry sufficient authority for such a job. A quick promotion and Corporal McCann left to spend his time in the Army in Haifa, arranging shows for the troops and learning skills that would stand him in good stead later on.

In 1948, dressed in full uniform with medals, McCann auditioned at the Royal Academy of Music and was awarded a scholarship to study with Rosina Buckman and Olive Groves. Winifred joined him to study with the

same teachers. The Principal, Myers Fogg, told McCann he would never succeed, because of his East End accent. He proved Myers wrong not only by winning the elocution prize but by becoming an accomplished singer in both Italian and Welsh and being awarded the special Certificate of Singing ranking above the medals.

At that time students were forbidden to take professional engagements and when McCann was spotted at an audition, he was hauled again in front of the Principal. His excuse? That he was attending auditions to gain experience so that he would be well prepared after graduation. Fortunately the Principal never found out that under the name Paul Manning he was already a member of the chorus in the West End musical *Wild Thyme*.

After graduating, he changed his wife Winifred's name to the more glamorous Lucille Graham and began acting as her agent and manager, with such success that other artists soon approached him to do the same for them. At first he continued the two careers side by side, as singer and agent, but within a short time his flair for management took over and his career as a professional tenor was abandoned.

McCann's life continued to be blessed with many a touch of serendipity. He bought a radio with a good short-wave band so he could listen to music from around the world and one night, after a particularly splendid concert broadcast from the Soviet Union, he wrote to Moscow asking for more details of the orchestra and music. His letter was answered competently and enthusiastically and the correspondence eventually led to his bringing many solo artists and orchestras to Britain, from behind the Iron Curtain.

Although he arranged the first British engagements for artists from more than 20 countries, including Plácido Domingo's British debut, his foremost interest continued to be in presenting talent from the Eastern bloc. This enthusiasm brought him great honour in several countries. He was honoured by the Bulgarian government with the Order of Cyril and Methodius, the Czechoslovakians awarded him the Smetana Medal and the Hungarian government gave him the Kodály Medal. Occasionally someone would accuse him of being a fellow traveller



McCann with his wife, Lucille Graham, at St Bride's, Fleet Street

house. The joint conductors of the tour on that occasion were Kurt Masur and Kurt Masur both visiting Britain for the first time. Some members of the orchestra asked what on earth they were doing playing in such a place. "You're Communists, aren't you?" he challenged. "You believe in playing for the working man? Well that's what we're doing tonight." Sanderling became a great admirer and close friend of McCann, whose management was totally hands-on. He met the artists on their arrival at the airport, accompanied them throughout their tours making sure they were well treated, and being a musician himself was able to anticipate their needs.

One day on an early tour, while the incoming artists caught up on their

programmes, thousands of photographs signed by artists, letters written by internationally acclaimed musicians, rare documents and unique historic archive material. This "International Music Museum" - conservatively valued at over £1.5m - he donated to the Royal Academy of Music, where it forms the centrepiece of the new museum being set up at York Gate, in a house next door to the academy.

McCann's musical activities included being President of the British Association of Concert Agents, Concert Organiser to the International Estafet at Llangollen, Executive Director of the Children's Opera Group and Concert Manager to the London Bach Society, whose choir he took on tour to Bulgaria. He was also Chairman of the Resources Committee of the Family Welfare Association, an active Executive Member of the Greater London Playing Fields Association and President of the Lewisham Ratepayers Association.

McCann always said that he had come into the world owing nothing and would leave it the same way. He lived the life of a bon viveur in a comfortable home with a good cellar. He enjoyed fine cooking but never lost his childhood taste for a good savoury.

In 1992, dwarting the taxman, he put all his possessions into the Lucille Graham Trust, the income from which will benefit young artists at various musical academies, by the award of scholarships. He was able to take a small income from the trust to act as adviser but from last April, when he became ill, he lived on his state old age pension.

Lynn Ten Kate

Norman William John McCann, impresario and collector: born London 24 April 1920; married 1943 Winifred Elias (Lucille Graham, died 1991) (one son by Lucia Bogdan); died London 20 March 1999.

McCann said that he came into the world owning nothing and so he would leave it. He gave away his £1.5m music collection and lived on his old age pension

only to learn that he was a Conservative Councillor for the London Borough of Lewisham.

McCann's interest in Communist countries was confined to the arts and the admirable way they were often fostered and financed. He wanted audiences in Britain to be able to listen to these artists live and that did not only mean audiences in London and the big cities. His wife was Welsh, and he regularly presented concerts throughout the Principality, sometimes in unorthodox venues. On its first tour, after visiting major concert halls, he arranged for the Leipzig Gewandhaus Symphony Orchestra to play in a Welsh school

sleep, McCann wandered around an antique shop and found a silk commemorative programme from Victorian times, celebrating a command performance at Drury Lane for a visiting head of state. The proprietor explained these exquisite programmes were rare, having only been produced on the most glittering of occasions. At the same time McCann was given a signed photograph of Benjamin Guggenheim, a grateful client. The two items sparked off the interest that was to make McCann into a leading collector of musical memorabilia. The collection, housed formerly in a converted coach-house in his garden, comprises several dozen, framed, silk

GAZETTE

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Prince Edward, Trustee, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends the "The Magnificent Seven" Dinner at the Hyatt Carlton Hotel, London SW1. The Princess Royal, Patron, British Quality Foundation, attends the "Winning through Excellence" Joint Award Winners Conference at the Cumberland Hotel, London W1; attends the National Equine Forum, Royal Veterinary College, London NW1; and, as Patron, British Executive Services Overseas attends their Gala Concert at Shell International Limited, London SE1. The Duke of Gloucester, Honorary Freeman and Liverman, the Vintners' Company, attends the Lenten Dinner at Vintners' Hall, London EC4.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at 15.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Brian Bailey, former chairman, Television South West; Mr Dudley Barker, writer; Major Sir Shane Blewitt, former keeper of the Privy Purse; Mr Humphrey Burton, writer and broadcaster; Sir Kenneth Carlisle, former MP; Sir William Charles, High Court judge; Mr Lawrence Chalford MP; Mr Stephen Dorrell MP; Professor Mary Douglas, anthropologist; Professor Sir Raymond Firth, anthropologist; Sir Ronald Flanagan, Chief Constable, RUC; Professor Sir Patrick Forrest, surgeon; Mr Robert Fox, impresario; Mr Michael Glaser, actor; General Sir James Glover, former Commander-in-Chief, UK Land Forces; Sir Elton John, singer; Mr Geoffrey John, chairman, Food from Britain; The Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, Archbishop of Wales; Mr Nick Lowe, rock performer and composer; Sir Bernard Miller, former chairman, John Lewis Part-

nership; Mr Leif Mills, general secretary, Banking, Insurance and Finance Union; Sir Lord Quinton, former chairman of the board, British Library; Mr Christine Russell MP; Mr William Taylor, Commissioner, City of London Police; Sir Walter Raleigh of Worcester, former MP; Mr Michael Whitlam, Director-General, British Red Cross Society; Mr Keith Whiston, chief executive, Midland Bank, 56.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Henry II, king, 1138; Matthew Merian the Younger, engraver and painter, 1621; Jean-Baptiste Paulin Guérin, painter, 1783; Alexander Ivanovich Herzen, author and writer, 1812; Arturo Toscanini, conductor, 1867; Bela Bartok, composer, 1881; Jean Sablon, singer, actor and composer, 1906; Alan John Percival Taylor, historian, 1906.

Deaths: Nicholas Hawksmoor, architect, 1685; "Novalis" (Friedrich Leopold, Freiherr von Hardenberg), poet, 1801; Frédéric Mistral, Provençal poet, 1914; Achille-Claude Debussy, composer, 1918; John

Drinkwater, poet and playwright, 1937; John Dermot Mordaunt Snagge, broadcaster, 1996.

On this day: the Council of Pisa met, 1409; Robert Bruce was crowned King of Scots at Scone, Perthshire, 1306; Sir Walter Raleigh was granted a patent to exploit Virginia, 1584; Titan, one of Saturn's "moons", was discovered by Christian Huygens, 1655; the British parliament abolished the slave trade, 1807; Rotherhithe pedestrian tunnel beneath the Thames was opened, 1843; the Italians invaded Abyssinia (Ethiopia), 1885; 350,000 gallons of alcoholic liquor was dumped into the Chicago river by US prohibitionist law agents, 1922; King George of Greece was deposed, 1924; and a republic was proclaimed, 1924; the Fascist government in Italy claimed to have received 99 per cent of the votes in the general election, 1929; *Hamlet* became the first British film to win an Academy Award for "Best Picture"; 1946; the European Community was established, 1957; President Ayub Khan of Pakistan resigned, and General Yahya Khan, the army commander-in-chief took over, proclaiming martial

law, 1969; the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Khalid bin Abdul Aziz, succeeded to the throne, 1975.

Todays Lady Day (Feast of the Annunciation) and the Feast Day of St Alfwold, St Barontius, St Dismas, the Good Thief, St Hermanl, St Lucy Filippi and St Margaret Clitherow.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Rebecca Lyons, "Writers and Painters (iv): Emily Zola and the Impressionists", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Michael Keen, "Style 1850 to 1900", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Sarah O'Brien, "Twobig, "Matisse, Picasso and Braque", 1pm. British Museum: Vincent Damiles, "They Eat Objects Don't They?", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Professor H.G.C. Matthew, "John Everett Millais Series: Millais and his four prime ministers", 1.10pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Peter Hughes, "Louis XVI Boule Furniture", 1pm. Gresham College, at St Andrew's Church, London EC1: Professor Richard Holloway, "What is the Use of Jesus?", 5.30pm.

THE NEW vogue for the LP *In the Lounge with Andy Williams* surprises nobody more than the singer: "I used to dread the lounge. If you didn't make it, you ended up singing in the lounge. You know, 'lounge' isn't where you want to be."

To Johnson it was only a verb. He posited Dutch origins, but the etymology is

HISTORICAL NOTES

LISA APPIGNANESI

Identities for sale in wartime Warsaw

THE HORRORS of Auschwitz and the other killing camps have shrouded the history of that small number of Jews who miraculously managed to survive the Nazi extermination machine in Poland by masquerading as Aryans. The mixture of ingenuity and cunning, of good fortune and bursts of heroism which marks their experience deserves a grace note in the funeral march of that holocaust.

For a Jew to live as an Aryan - or on the "Aryan side", as people used to say referring to a geography which, in Warsaw, had a vast ghetto wall as a demarcation line - was no easyfeat. It took, first of all, an act of premonitory imagination, a sense that, if Jews were being herded together, the consequences, this time, would be on a scale never yet seen. Jews, after all, had had a history of ghettoisation, of living in their own quarters and surviving terror. In the early years of the Second World War, few foresaw the hideous scale that this particular pogrom was to take. Those who did usually belonged to a younger, more secular generation and one which could speak unaccented Polish.

The decision to disobey the order to enter the ghetto walls or to risk instant death by escaping them - ripping off the white armband and blue star that signalled Jewishness - led not to immediate freedom, but to a different world of danger.

In an occupied police state, identity papers became as crucial as food or fuel. ID checks were frequent and brutal. Procuring an Aryan identity was thus the first step towards dissimulating one's Jewishness. Blank baptismal certificates could be purchased on the black market. But "authentic" ones, supposedly official replacements for lost documents, were safer. In either case, a name, perhaps of someone recently dead, together with the name of a church, preferably destroyed, and, for good measure, the name of a priest, preferably dead, had to be found. Details had then to be typed out and authorised by a tame notary or an engraver who could create a good imitation of a notary's stamp. Each step required a fee.

Armed with this the Jew could then register with the police and finally obtain the *Kennkarte* - the German-issued ID every Gentile had to carry. Being blond was an asset in this, as in the rest of the business of survival. But it was hardly enough. Blondness didn't reach to cover the evidence of circumcision. Nor could it dislodge fear that had become daily habitual, instinctive dread - the wayward glance over one's shoulder, the hunched shoulders, the quick pace, almost a run. My dark-haired father, having escaped from the Warsaw Ghetto, stayed in hiding in a boarded-up warehouse room for several months in order to

Lisa Appignanesi is the author of *Losing the Dead* (Chatto & Windus, £15.99) and *The Dead of Winter* (Bantam, £9.99)

Executor de son tort can be trustee

THURSDAY LAW REPORT

25 MARCH 1999

James v Williams

Court of Appeal
(Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Aldous) 8 March 1999

third to the plaintiff and the balance to the defendant.

The judge dismissed the plaintiff's claim on the ground that it was statute barred, holding that, pursuant to section 15(1) of and para 2 of Sch 1 to the Limitation Act 1980, the statutory period of 12 years ran from the death of the plaintiff's mother.

The plaintiff had relied in 1972, leaving a property known as Rose Cottage. No attempt was made to take out letters of administration of her estate. By virtue of sections 46 and 47 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925, the mother's residuary estate was held on the statutory trusts for her three adult children, the plaintiff, her brother William and sister Thirza.

The plaintiff became estranged from her brother and sister, and they acted thereafter as if Rose Cottage was William's property. In 1993 William died, having appointed Thirza and her daughter, the defendant, as his executors and beneficiaries.

The defendant proved his will and purported to assert Rose Cottage to herself and her mother, subject to a charge to a building society from which William had obtained a loan.

Thirza died in 1995, and, by her will, left all her property to the defendant, who thereafter claimed to be the sole owner of Rose Cottage.

In 1996 the plaintiff issued an originating summons claiming, *inter alia*, a declaration that she was entitled to a one-third share of Rose Cottage, and an order that the property be sold with the proceeds of sale to be divided as to one-

Lord Justice Aldous said that it was accepted that by treating the property as his own William had, without valuable consideration, meddled in the estate of his mother, and that his actions had been such that he had become what was known as an executor de son tort. Since there was no direct authority on the point at issue, it had to be decided in accordance with general principles.

As a general rule a constructive trust attached to property which was held by a person in circumstances in which it would be inequitable to permit him to assert full beneficial title to the property. In many cases, an executor de son tort would not be a constructive trustee, but each case must depend on its own facts.

In the present case, had William taken out letters of administration after the death of his mother, he would have been a trustee pursuant to the provisions of the Administration of Estates Act 1925, and would have owed a fiduciary duty to the other beneficiaries.

That was relevant when considering the equitable position. The circumstances of the case were such that a constructive trust had arisen on the death of the mother. William had known that he was not solely entitled to the property. He had been under an equitable duty to hold it on trust for himself, the plaintiff, and Thirza. Accordingly, the plaintiff's case was not statute barred.

KATE O'HANLON Barrister

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

lounge, *v.* and *n.*

models of Williams's dread, but the OED does not make clear a nuance nimily expressed by Martin Fagg in a *New Statesman* parody of Evelyn Waugh: "I have had to chastise my son for using lounge of a room in a private house." Rest assured, there is no Andy Williams in my sitting-room; Tony Bennett, yes.

Should we ever 'be honest'?

Dennis's girlfriend read a book on relationships, and they had an 'honesty' session. He told of old affairs and said she was overweight; she said she was still a bit in love with her old boyfriend. This has driven them apart. How honest should you be in a relationship?

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

It makes me squirm to think of Dennis and his girlfriend sitting down in all seriousness to be "honest" with each other. It might be less destructive if they just took it in turns to stab each other with sharp knives. I know they say that "sticks and stones can break your bones and words don't bother me", but the wounds from sticks and stones do heal up eventually, while the things that people say rankle for ever; however hard you try to forget them.

And anyway what does "being honest" mean? Surely it doesn't mean being hurtful when there's no need to be? Or does it mean "not being dishonest" - a very different matter? And where do good manners and respect for your partner come in?

Is saying "Well, yes, I suppose you could lose a couple of pounds" any less honest than saying "You're fat"? What about "Yes, you have been putting on weight, but I'll always love you whatever size you are." It's usually possible to be completely honest, but elegant and polite and kind at the same time. Rather than say: "How could you have been so rude to our host?" you could say: "I think you hurt our

host quite a lot by what you said, although I'm sure you didn't mean to. It didn't do you justice."

Honesty is a bit like a lemon. Not very nice if it's forced, whole, down your throat all at once, but perfectly delicious if added to another dish. I have said the most truthful things to people, but added to a cream sauce as it were. Instead of telling me to get lost they have almost invariably said that they appreciated my honesty, and have taken it as a compliment.

Anyway, what is honest or not is often a question of mood. "You're fat and selfish" is something you can think on a Wednesday, but on Thursday, after he's spontaneously visited your old mother in a nursing-home and then taken you out to dinner, you might think "You're generous, lovely and cuddly". Which is the "honest" view? I suppose you could do things the American self-help book way: "Today I am irritated by your weight problem and can only see your selfish side." But although it's an absolutely splendid way to talk in theory, I don't know a single soul who, though they endorse the idea behind it, can bring themselves to speak like that. Perhaps because it means you'd have to

say the nice things that way, too.

"I love you" would turn into:

"Today I feel great love for you".

Not very comforting, I mean, crips, what about tomorrow?

In his diaries James Lees-Milne wrote, having been asked by his wife whether he thought she had a sense of humour and replied that he didn't think she did: "People take it as the deadliest insult to be told they lack sense of humour; it is worse than being told their breath stinks. I shouldn't have said what I said. The truth is, one cannot be candid, or honest with one's dearest. One cannot be honest or truthful. Truth is not beauty. It is something to be hidden in the deepest depths of one's inmost being. One must act all the time."

I don't think Dennis and his girlfriend should act all the time. They should be honest - but only when honesty is called for; and not as an end in itself. They must never, never, be "brutally" honest or indeed brutally anything. Honesty is no excuse for being rude, disrespectful, hurtful or unloving. Honesty is terribly important; but so is presentation.

DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



READERS' SUGGESTIONS

Honesty is the best policy. In a long-term relationship anything less than honesty engenders mistrust and stores up a wealth of future problems. For the first three years of my current (very long-term) relationship, I did not allow my partner to see me without make-up - fearing that he would surely leave if he saw "the real me". However I plucked up courage, braced myself and left it off one day. He didn't notice. He is three stone overweight and I would quite like him to lose some of this; however, it in no way diminishes my feelings for him, as he is well aware. One should invest only in a relationship that is true, underpinned by trust and love. Too many people accept romantic myths, self-delusion and empty flattery.

The divorce courts are full of people who have bought and sold fairy tales about each other. These are cheap, come without guarantees and carry a high long-term cost, emotionally and financially.

BETTY B
Birkenhead, Merseyside

No such thing as a clean slate. Don't use a "getting-to-know-you" period as a confessional;

club. You'll have far more fun and learn more about each other.

MARTYN LLOYD
Woodbridge, Suffolk

It's time to move on. Maybe telling you about it was an opportunity for her to let go of feelings for her old boyfriend. Sometimes I view the feelings within our hearts as having limited space to exist in.

Tell your girlfriend how much you love her now. The past is gone. Look to the future and enjoy your present.

ANNA GILLESPIE
Glasgow

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia,
I'm 36 and recently realised that I desperately want children.

I've been going out with a man for three years but we keep splitting up. Now he's got broody, too, and wants children. Should I break with this man and try to find a more stable relationship? If so I'm afraid of never having children. Or should we just go for it and see what happens?

Yours sincerely, Wendy

Anyone with advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk; giving a postal address for a bouquet.

POETIC LICENCE

SOOTY - MY DRUGS HELL
BY MARTIN NEWELL

The Independent Television Commission has upheld complaints about Sooty and Sweep encouraging dangerous behaviour among children. This followed an episode in which the puppets behaved oddly after sniffing oils from aromatherapy bottles.



When the scandal broke, a tight-lipped Sooty
Baseball-cap pulled down across his face
Read the papers, speeding from the courtroom
Tabloid hacks on motorbikes gave chase

Current pictures of the pale puppet
Contrast badly with an early one:
"Happier days with drunkey by the seaside.
What Is Wrong With Sooty?" screams *The Sun*.

Panda Sue: "We all just felt so powerless
Watching him descend the slippery slope
No one knew the pressure he was under
And I guess he found it hard to cope."

In a private clinic near Roehampton
Sweep toyed with his salid and confessed:
"Me an' Sooty? We went for it, yeah. Big-style.
But it's what you do when you're the best."

Don't think we're the only ones to go there.
Teletubbies. They won't last the pace.
Check out Tinky Winky on a bad day.
There's a boy who isn't on the case."

Sooty: "Everyone's been so supportive.
All the cast have sent me cards and stuff
Since the story broke on Monday morning
That was when the gig got really rough."

Hopefully the worst of it's behind me
Now that Geri's brought me here to France
And of course, George Michael lent his chateau.
Thanks to them, I've got this second chance."

That's the danger when you're in this business
Some of us burn out before we peak
Look at Sweep, he never got his voice back
Over 40 years he's had that squeak

Not something you talk about in public
Basically, you fear what fans will think
People's hands inside you each performance
That's the one that sends you to the brink."

My, my, Abba may be dead but Fabba are alive and glittering

The band that taste forgot still has its admirers - and plenty of impersonators. By James Rampton

By usual office party standards, it's a rather buttoned-up affair. Even the attractions of the big wheel, dodgems, stilts-walkers and casino cannot loosen the natural-born formality of the 3,000 awkward-looking, dinner-jacketed corporate lawyers at their firm's annual do.

Suddenly, the lights in the purpose-built big top in the East End of London are dimmed and the talk of leveraged takeovers and management buy-outs is stilled. Over the PA, a voice calls out: "are you ready to rock, you party people?" It appears to have an inexplicable Swedish twang.

A spotlight dances across a set of golden curtains which are drawn back to reveal two women standing cheek-to-cheek in white glittery mini-dresses and thigh-high leather boots. They are flanked by a pair of bearded men dressed in white Mao jackets. You double-take for a moment, thinking you may have wandered inadvertently into an S&M show, until the foursome strike up the unmistakable tones of "Waterloo". Abba are dead, long live the tribute band.

Over the next hour and a half, Fabba send the legal eagles wild. Casting aside their earlier inhibitions, the lawyers do their best approximation of letting it all hang out to the greatest hits of the Swedish supergroup. They take particular delight in imitating the band's celebrated poses back-to-back during "Knowing Me, Knowing You", wagging their fingers at each other for "Honey, Honey", circling one another with hands and hips in "Voulez-Vous". Some of the solicitors are so relaxed, they unknot their bow ties. Even the stilts-walkers get involved, miming broken hearts during "SOS". For an all-too-brief 90 minutes all 3,000 of us are 13 again, dancing our socks off at our first school disco.

The band leaves the stage after "Dancing Queen" to cheers that could be heard as far away as Stockholm, and the DJ puts on "Superstar" by the Spice Girls. The song empties the dance-floor faster than a stink-bomb. There is just no following Fabba.

Fabba are only one of up to a dozen groups - others include Björn Again and Voulez Vous - who are earning a living out of impersonating the Swedish pop gods. With six-figure annual turnover, Fabba get through more than 200 gigs a year. In the past few months they have played in Bahrain, Jersey, Althorp House, the Conservative Party Winter Ball and Bob Monkhouse's 70th birthday party. On New Year's Day they were the first act to appear on Channel 5 after Big Ben had struck 12. Next month they play the Forum in Kentish Town, a venue that is the last word in trendiness.

Fabba's mentors, Abba, are now more popular than when they split up 18



Fabba and mentors Abba (below left): 'We can't turn Abba into a comedy band'

Fabba are only one of up to a dozen groups - others include Björn Again and Voulez Vous - who are earning a living out of impersonating the Swedish pop gods. With six-figure annual turnover, Fabba get through more than 200 gigs a year. In the past few months they have played in Bahrain, Jersey, Althorp House, the Conservative Party Winter Ball and Bob Monkhouse's 70th birthday party. On New Year's Day they were the first act to appear on Channel 5 after Big Ben had struck 12. Next month they play the Forum in Kentish Town, a venue that is the last word in trendiness.

Fabba's mentors, Abba, are now more popular than when they split up 18

years ago. People who were fans in their schooldays are rediscovering the band all over again. It's like a thirty-something rekindling affair with a childhood sweetheart.

On 6 April, the 25th anniversary of Abba's victory with "Waterloo" at the Eurovision Song Contest, *Mamma Mia!*, a West End musical featuring 27 of their songs opens at the Prince Edward Theatre. And that day Polydor Records are also putting out *The Singles Collection*, containing all Abba's 28 original A and B sides. Hearing this news, Alan Partridge would think he'd died and gone to Abba heaven.

The rock critic Nick Barber reckons we have warmed to Abba again "because they went through such a long period of being desperately unhip. They came from the decade that taste forgot, they were Swedish, and they were associated with Eurovision - none of those things is helpful if you

want to be fashionable. It's not easy to go from an uncool to a cool area, but one of the ways of doing it is to go through the 'irony tunnel'. People will start to say, tongue-in-cheek, 'I like flares', or 'lava lamps' or 'Abba'. And gradually, if the thing is any good, it will pass through the irony tunnel to become cool."

On tour with Fabba, we are not talking Rolling Stones LearJet levels of glamour. Before the lawyers' gig, they struggle into their impossibly tight costumes in a cramped portable cabin adorned only with a few plastic chairs and a cracked mirror.

So why do they do it? Is it just for money, money, money? They would rather talk loftily of an enduring passion for the music. Andy Skeleton, who in a previous life won *New Faces* three times and toured with Eurythmics, was once in Björn Again but left in time-honoured *Spinal Tap* fashion

after "musical differences". He now works full-time as "Björn", the electric guitarist and founder-member of Fabba. He reckons that "Abba's songs have never left the public consciousness. They have been played constantly on every gold radio station. They've been a subconscious background to people's lives since the Seventies. The tacky label has even helped Abba to get through the bad times; they've got mileage out of people saying they were a laugh. Also, the music stands up - it's universal and appeals across the age range. If you buy an ultra-trendy wedding-suit, it soon goes out of fashion. Tails are more timeless."

Which is just one reason why Abba are ripe for tribute bands. Another according to Skeleton, "is the catalogue. An artist with just two hits would be hard to do, but only Elvis and The Beatles have had more hits than Abba. You can be on stage for an hour and a half and the audience will know the words to every single song. You can't do that with most bands. Tribute bands enjoy what I call 'the McDonald's Syndrome'. Rather than exper-

imenting with sushi, people know what they're going to get. They're never disappointed, because they get what they expected."

While Fabba vehemently deny the suggestion that they are "amoks", they certainly take what they do seriously. "We wouldn't want Abba to walk in and see us taking the piss out of them," says Skeleton. "Abba weren't a comedy band, so we can't turn them into one now."

For all that, you have to have a sense of humour to do a job that involves dressing up in a white satin jumpsuit and putting on a Swedish accent which by their own admission contains "elements of 'Allo, 'Allo".

The band prove as much when I bid them farewell, finally exhausted by the high-octane pace of life on the road with Fabba. Is there anything you have not told me about your rock'n'roll lifestyle, I ask in parting. "Our drug problem," Skeleton deadpans. "Being in an Abba tribute band gives you a dreadful herring addiction."

Fabba play *The Half Moon*, Putney, London SW15 on 26 March, The Irish Centre, Leeds on 31 March, The Alley Cat, Reading on 1 April, The Woodman, Sidcup on 10 April, *The Half Moon*, Herne Hill, London SE24 on 16 April, & The Forum, Kentish Town, London NW3 on 17 April.



JULIA HOLLOWAY

St?

I she was evera
in a relationship

TIONS

Flying in the face of art

Chris Burden wants to challenge everything – and that includes the museums and galleries that exhibit his work. By Hugh Stoddart

Isnt that the artist who cut bits off himself?" So said a friend of mine when I mentioned Chris Burden the other day. When I came to talk to Burden I resolved not even to mention his performance pieces from the early 1970s, because he's weary with talking about them – and no, he didn't cut bits off himself. He showed his work first in the UK, in 1981, at my invitation. It was a piece called *Diamonds Are Forever*. There was, as Burden now amiably puts it, a "brouaha" over the buying of a real diamond which it required. He went straight to Paris and presented a companion piece about gold at the Beaubourg and there was a brouaha there too. As Burden says: "If I'd asked them to buy \$500 worth of lumber; no problem." But \$500 worth of gold was a problem. Burden is known for giving museums and galleries problems.

For the piece at the Tate (*When Robots Rule...*) he brought along a little kit plane and said he wanted it to be mass-produced in the gallery: to be made at the rate of one every minute (and given an inaugural flight) all day long for a hundred days. Andy Everett of Studio S in London was then commissioned by the Tate to create the necessary production line. I asked Burden if he would have liked to solve that problem himself, and he said yes, in that it would have increased his technical knowledge; but no, in that it would have taken him three to five years to do it. Even Studio S can only achieve one plane every two minutes.

Burden values the miracle of a technology which can save many thousands of "person hours": normally, you'd need three hours and some dexterity to build such one. It's a plane he particularly likes: it uses simple materials (balsa wood, tissue, rubber band, etc) as efficiently as possible; it's a damn good flier. I think that's an aesthetic he likes: the beauty of the impeccably rightly constructed object. He calls it the "internalised" aesthetic of the engineer. And he enjoys the microcosm of industrial capitalism inherent in the piece. Thinking about it at the planning stage, he wondered, "Suppose the price is wrong? Suppose they don't sell? What's to be done with 20,000 aeroplanes?" After all, it might be like "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" in the Disney's *Pantastic*; planes spiralling upwards like swarming ants into the vastness of the Tate's Duveen Gallery.

Burden talks about people nowadays being "cyberised" – engineers, for example, often have no hands-on experience at all in their training. He's astonished that his fine art students in Los Angeles often have only a hazy notion of, say, what something might weigh just by looking at it. He attaches a lot of importance to physical experience: our bodies and our senses are our best guide to anything. Intuition grows from that physical experience.



Many hands make flight work: Chris Burden and the product of his assembly line

When Burden famously had someone shoot him through the arm as a performance piece in 1971, it was because that was the only way he could ever truly know what it felt like to be shot.

Burden is very committed to not being committed. Art is about "unfettered enquiry". But art is being subsumed by education: the training of artists is increasingly academic, the presentation of art is increasingly dictated by the need to educate the viewer. We so much want our artists to have opinions, and we want to know their motivations. There are so many taboos (racism, militarism, sexism,

right-wingery etc) and we want to be reassured the artist is steering a safe course amongst these dangerous rocks.

In 1978 Burden had 50,000 nickels set out across a gallery door, each with a matchstick placed on it. Each nickel represented a Soviet tank. He titled the piece *The Reason for the Neutron Bomb* and received a bashing from people convinced he was being gung-ho or crassly male; that he was naively supporting US militarism. In fact, he wanted to take something which everyone reads in *Newsweek* but which remains so abstract, and he wanted to make it real. His tactic is confrontational but it isn't pro-

pagandist to advocate pacifism he regards as propagandist as well. He wants us to make our own decisions. In contrast, for *The Other Vietnam Memorial* – made at the time of the Gulf War, and with that in mind – Burden had 12 sheets of copper inscribed with the names of three million Vietnamese people who died in the war there. He's less happy with that piece, though many people would have fallen eagerly on it to show that yes, Chris is OK, you know – he's on the right side.

Burden is my generation: we "came of age" (as people used to say on reaching 21) around 1968. It doesn't follow, as I've been

at pains to point out, that Burden is permanently radical, an ageing revolutionary – but it does mean that he's standing at the gallery window looking out, not standing outside eager to come in. He doesn't make art about art. He's interested in the forces which shape us, in power and money, in the forces we can control if we want to, in the choices we can make. He wants us to get a good feel of these things in our nice white galleries, once in a while.

Taking the art outside the museum isn't necessarily progress: Burden is uneasy about "public art" because he feels often there's an undeclared agenda – the art is

needed to distract from something, or it's there to decorate. This brings us back to where we began: Burden gives galleries problems because his instinct is that institutions need to be challenged. I think he feels an artist has an obligation to be absolutely an individual, to stay free – and, well, to take flight.

When Robots Rule is at the Tate Gallery, London until 13 June, sponsored by American Airlines. Hugh Stoddart was director of the Ikon Gallery, Birmingham 1978-81, and is now a screenwriter and art critic

Accommodations with conscience

THEATRE

GOOD
DONMAR WAREHOUSE
LONDON

with a wife who is coming unravelled (an utterly convincing Jessica Turner), with an adoring pupil who becomes his mistress (Emilia Fox) and with a Jewish doctor friend (excellent Ian Gelder) who evolves into an embarrassment for Halder, our Aryan protagonist. A cunningly cast Charles Dance is an ideal choice to prove that even soulful-eyed sensitivity personified is no proof against steady attrition of self-preserving self-deception.

Artfully dotted, though, like little oases of flattery calm amidst this tragicomic turmoil, there is a staggered, blow-by-blow dramatisation of Halder's first meeting with a Nazi official when, on the strength of a mother-inspired pro-euthanasia novel he has written, he is approached and seduced into taking on the



Charles Dance and Emilia Fox in 'Good'

Geraint Lewis

alleged role of humane science that can push a man into putting job, family and skin before ideals, principles and fellow men.

Halder's production acutely highlights the contradictions in Halder's position.

Like lost souls, Dance and Miss Fox seem to cling to each other for warmth in the crackling flames of the bonfire of burning books. "If we're good to each other – and the people around us," she pleads, as if in-

toning some bankrupt mantra.

PAUL TAYLOR

To 22 May (0171-369 1732)

Generation rave grows up and chills out

CROSS-GENRE

THE BIG CHILL
WORDS IN MOTION
SADLER'S WELLS
LONDON

Yet after several hours of hybrid work, the DJ mixes, poetry, video, readings, dancing and so on, I couldn't help feeling a thrill of excitement as the six string players of Instrumental walked on, put their written parts on the music stands and began to perform. It was a relief to sit back and hear a real band – albeit a

bunch of classically trained musicians playing smart arrangements of well-known club tracks. Sure, there was a blue oscilloscope trace flickering, and a video of white clouds to accompany their version of the Orb's "Little Fluffy Clouds", but the performance was essentially a musical one.

The Big Chill organisation takes its name from the idea of chill-out rooms – not the Laurenz Kasdan movie with the Motown soundtrack – and has mounted several events in a variety of venues since 1994. This summer they host a three-day

open-air festival near Salisbury that will include a "night time site-specific art trail" and a "body & soul area". Is this the rave generation growing up? There's a good dose of adult imagination at work in the programming, which on Sunday included the documentary *Drum'n'Space* about Talvin Singh in India, rope-trick gymnast John Paul Zaccarini and dancer Claire Massingham.

Since the night was part of The Word (London's literature festival), there was also plenty of spoken word. David Toop gave a rather Eyore-ish reading

from his book *Exotica*, accompanied by a tape of fluttering improv and a flickering green oscilloscope trace on the huge screen. Actors Louise Bangay and Victor Gardner gave a funny, 15-minute performance of Peter Handke's *Self Accusation* and Galliano's Earl Zinger accompanied Massingham with poetry from beatnik-style cut-ups to a funny, expertly executed tale of an obsessive record-buyer.

The Big Chill's co-founder Pete Lawrence screened a sequence of recorded spoken word and music in conjunction

with inventive video images and film collages by Hestatic, an offshoot of Colcud. Their brilliant electroacoustic short *Deadly Media*, was a highlight, and spoken links from Ken Nordine's *Colours* album provided light relief.

JOHN L WALTERS

Handel's greatest bits

OPERA

LOTARIO
BRITTEN THEATRE
ROYAL COLLEGE OF
MUSIC
LONDON

these may not be "characters" in the modern theatrical sense, they're more than prettily singing ninnies. Yet Chevra's young singers respond with enthusiasm and skill. Kristina Wahlin enjoyed herself as the jolly villainess Matilde, while Darren Abrahams made Berengario sound sweet even as he struggled to match his wife's acidic sadism.

The casts (two line-ups over three nights) are assembled from the London Royal Schools' opera departments, and if none of the singers is yet at one with Handel's exorbitant idiom, the singing is graceful, expressive and often imaginatively ornamented.

In the title role, William Towers's Falstaff is a little fragile, but his phrasing is idiomatic and his hearing soulful. The show's star, though, is Natasha Marsh's Adelaide, vocally radiant through all manner of dramatic indignities. An occasional tendency to overburden the singing line with expressive effect is born of a genuine dramatic impulse that promises interesting developments over the next few years.

In the pit, Paul Nicholson treats his singers with care, and gets colourfully idiomatic playing from the London Handel Orchestra. Whatever doubts, there are still plenty of reasons to be grateful for the London Handel Festival.

NICK KIMBERLEY
Further performance tonight (0181-336 0880). The London Handel Festival continues until 25 April

FILM

Love and death in LA

Set in 1957, *Gods and Monsters* is a speculative account of the last days of the film director James Whale. The name may not be familiar, but back in the 1930s Whale made a huge splash with two landmark horror movies, *Frankenstein* and its sequel *Bride of Frankenstein*. Thereafter his career went into decline, and he retired to a quiet backwater in LA's Pacific Palisades before he decided one morning to destroy himself: he was found dressed in a three-piece suit in his swimming-pool. Written and directed by Bill Condon, who adapted it from a novel by Christopher Bram, the film seeks an answer to why the director came to such a drastic pass. Was it madness, despair, or simply an inability to keep boredom at bay?

As played by Ian McKellen, Whale is Hollywood's idea of the typical English gent: urbane, amused, immaculately dressed and incorrigibly gay. He lounges in sequestered luxury, attended by his clucking *mittel-European* housekeeper, Hanna (Lynn Redgrave), who is at once protective and scornful of "Mr Jimmy's" louche ways. One day a small but debilitating stroke leaves Whale in turmoil: memories of his earlier life flash unbidden through his stricken mind: his dismal childhood in working-class Dudley, the carnage of the trenches during the Great War and a fellow-soldier he loved, scenes from the set of his monster-movie. While in this vulnerable state, he spots through his window the new gardener, Clayton Boone (Brendan Fraser), and we see the glint of something predatory in the older man's eyes. "You have the

THE BIG PICTURE



ANTHONY QUINN

GODS AND MONSTERS (15)
DIRECTOR: BILL CONDON
STARRING: IAN MCKELLEN, LYNN REDGRAVE, BRENDAN FRASER
110 MINUTES

most architectural skull," he tells Boone, who only gradually becomes aware that his employer may have designs on other parts of his anatomy.

A former marine, Boone seems at first a guileless, almost childlike fellow, and shruggingly agrees to model for a portrait. During their sessions Whale talks openly, more openly than he intends, about his life. We learn that the sensitive boy was considered an "aberration" in his family, and that his father was a loveless man. We glimpse the closeted world of gay Hollywood, and the nude poolside parties *chez* Whale. And, little by little, we sense Boone's increasing fascination with this fading but still exotic creature. When he watches a TV re-run of *Bride of Frankenstein* in a bar one evening, it's apparent

that he's looking for clues to link a movie about suffering and love with the *ejecta* old man who's adopted him as a confessor. What Boone can't yet see is that his awkwardness, his shapely skull, his "noble and misunderstood" spirit all remind Whale of the lumbering, bolt-necked figure whose legend he created years before.

Gods and Monsters keeps us guessing: is this a film about an evolving friendship or a fantastically devious seduction? Just when the master-monster relationship seems to have been established, director Condon throws in a dream sequence in which it is Whale supine on the operating table and Boone who's sawing off the top of his skull. The ambiguity is deepened by two beautifully nuanced performances. I'm not sure I've ever seen Ian McKellen engage with a character as intimately as this. Melancholy yet mischievous, he is lightly dismissive of the movie business yet proudly defensive of his own work. When Boone enthuses over the *Frankenstein* movies, Whale cuts in: "I just directed the first two. The others were done by hacks." His voice is a superb instrument here, swelling consonants around his mouth like a connoisseur testing an especially fine vintage. And there's something touching about the fact that a man as lonely and reclusive as this still has a dandy's urge to make a perfect Windsor knot in his tie each morning.

McKellen's expertise has already been tested. Brendan Fraser, on the other hand, was a complete revelation. I'd only ever seen him in rubbish before (*Airheads*, *George of the Jungle*), and was initially surprised that he could speak, let alone act.

His role demands a tricky juggling of con-



Ian McKellen: has never engaged so intimately with a character before

traditions – innocence and guardedness, attraction and disgust, a willingness to learn confused by a reluctance to see. It would test a more cultured actor than Fraser; yet he rises to the challenge with unshowy grace. Boone is less than bright, but he's not stupid either, and the dawning awareness of his own sensitivity under Whale's influence is very movingly done.

The film makes room for a third fine performance in Lynn Redgrave's pinched, disapproving servant; it hasn't the tragic selflessness of Erich von Stroheim's butler ministering to Gloria Swanson in *Sunset Boulevard*, yet Redgrave makes us feel the bewilderment and devotion the "master" has inspired in her down the years.

With so much achievement to praise,

it might be churlish to have wished for a little more energy in the picture. I think it's lacking one or two big scenes that would affirm the oddness of the bond between an English exquisite and a blue-collar Californian; I longed for more of the social comedy that springs up at the garden party thrown by George Cukor in honour of royalty, both the Hollywood sort and the real thing. Whale takes Boone along as his guest and, in front of Cukor, a closet gay he introduces his young friend to none other than Princess Margaret: "He's never met a princess. Only queens." The half-beat McKellen leaves between those two phrases is priceless. Indeed, the more one thinks about it, the greater the outrage over Roberto Benigni carry-

ing off the Best Actor award this week.

Bill Condon, who did win an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay, has made a wonderful film, and saves one of his best shots till last. We see Boone, happily domesticated years later, stepping into his backyard and waiting for a rainstorm to break. Then he takes a few faltering steps, as though his boots were lead-weighted and his arms stiff in plaster; the *Frankenstein* walk. In this private moment of homage you might feel that *Gods and Monsters* isn't just about memory and mortality and unlikely friendships – it's also about the fragile yet enduring consolations of art.

Bill Condon, director of 'Gods and Monsters', is interviewed on page 12

ALSO SHOWING

PAYBACK BRIAN HELGELAND (18) ■ **AMERICAN HISTORY X** TONY KAYE (18) ■ **AN AUTUMN'S TALE** ERIC ROHMER (U)

■ **MIGHTY JOE YOUNG** RON UNDERWOOD (PG) ■ **THE RUGRATS MOVIE** NORTON VIRGINIE/IGOR KOVALOV (U)

TWO FILMS this week shared a similar fate: both were wrested from their director's hands and completed by their star, though in neither case do you feel that a masterpiece may have gone begging. *Payback* is a brutal revenge thriller, originally under the control of Brian Helgeland, who was hired and then fired by Mel Gibson. The latter plays Porter, a career criminal who robs a Chinese

payroll of \$140,000, only to be double-crossed and left for dead by his wife (Deborah Kara Unger) and his partner, Resnick (Gregg Henry). But you don't get rid of a tough guy like Porter so easily. How tough is he? Well, he steals loose change from a beggar, beats up a weedy heroin dealer and narrates the story in a tobacco-kipped growl – that tough.

The movie follows Porter

around the mean streets of Chicago as he tries to get back his share of the loot from Resnick. This involves squaring up to various foes: a mysterious organisation called The Outfit, the Chinese he originally robbed, plus two bent coppers. Gibson is aiming for the affectless, force-of-nature pose that Lee Marvin perfected in *Point Blank* – both movies are based on Richard Stark's novel

The Hunter – but, unlike Marvin, it's the self-love of the actor rather than the self-possession of his character that comes through. He probably thought it was brave to play someone so determinedly charmless, little realising that he hasn't been charming for years. But we're still expected to go "ooh" and "aah" as he bursts through doors and blasts holes through people.

Helgeland, or whoever ended up directing, has no fear of a cliché. Gregg Henry has a stage-villain twitch that's pure comedy, while a call-girl becomes Porter's convenient love interest; there's also the ancient absurdity of a scene in which Porter impassively takes a savage beating, but winces when a woman cleans his wounds.

Nothing about *Payback* convinces not its bleached-out retro look, nor its gloating designer violence, nor the cool machismo of its leading man. For all it says about life outside the movies, it may well have been called *Paycheck*.

The British ad director Tony Kaye also lost control of his debut feature, *American History X*, during its protracted editing, and disowned the cut which the film's star, Edward Norton, finally put together.

Norton's performance actually turns out to be the only reason to see this facile and meretricious drama about neo-Nazism. He plays Derek, an articulate high-school student who is taken on as protégé of a racist militant (Stacy Keach) and begins to rally the disaffected youth of Venice Beach, California, in the cause of white America. After serving a three-year sentence for killing two black men, he emerges from prison not only changed but determined that his younger brother (Edward Furlong) will not succumb to the same racist



Edward Norton in 'American History X'

instincts as he did. The idea is worthy enough, but the variable script and Kaye's distracting visual pedantry keep bringing the film to its knees. Why prefigure a jailhouse rape scene with a shot of cascading water that's straight from a shampoo commercial? Why use so much slo-mo? You can take the director out of advertising, it seems, but you can't take advertising out of the director.

Norton, with his delicate features and tough, wiry body is a magnetic presence, inhabiting the role with a conviction that grips even when the drama is at its clumsiest: once he stars in a decent movie things should become interesting for him.

After these helpings of garish *nouvelle* violence, it's with relief that one escapes to the civilised confines of an Eric Rohmer film, *Conte d'Automne*

completes his quartet of seasonal tales, offering a typically genial essay in love, friendship and vicinage. It concerns Magali (Beatrice Romand), a fortysomething wine-grower in the Rhone valley who feels lonely since her children left home. Two matchmakers set about finding her a man: her son's girlfriend Rosine (Alexia Porte) has lined up her former philosophy tutor (Didier Sandre) as a candidate, while her best friend Isabelle (Marie Riviere), more ambitiously, has found a man named Gerald (Alain Leloup) via a lonely-hearts ad, with a view to passing him on to Magali.

Rohmer nudges along the story via long sequences of dialogue in which various pensées and points of view are mulled over. He is one of very few directors alive who prizes the

virtue of listening – his characters talk to, rather than at, one another.

True, they sometimes behave with almost superhuman equanimity, as when Gerald discovers he's been, however altruistically, duped. It's hard to imagine people being quite so amusingly philosophical anywhere outside of a Rohmer film, but his elegant social comedies are imbued with such civility and kindness that you wouldn't deny him a small measure of wishful thinking.

Parents should brace themselves for two children's movies of awesome banality. *Mighty Joe Young* is King Kong for kids, relating the everyday story of an outsize gorilla that's uprooted from the African jungle and transported to a conservation park in Los Angeles.

Bill Paxton and Charlize Theron play its obliging minders, and considering they act for most of the time opposite nothing (the gorilla is computer-generated), they do a pretty good job. Still, I could have lived without it.

The Rugrats Movie is a spin-off from a TV cartoon much beloved of tots. Having heard my teeth grind through its rash of nappy jokes and goo-goo voices, all I can say is that they're very welcome to it.

AQ

All films are on release from tomorrow

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AT CINEMAS

I'd like to thank Dr Frankenstein

Writer-director Bill Condon has reanimated the reputation of James Whale, one of film's forgotten heroes – and won himself an Oscar. By Liese Spencer

Bill Condon has just won an Oscar for his adapted screenplay of *Gods and Monsters*, the fictionalized biopic of James Whale, a homosexual British director who moved to Hollywood in the 1930s. Those of you who watched the whole ceremony may remember him. He was the little man who almost-but-not-quite made the scathing speech about Hollywood's homophobia (the one that Ian McKellen promised he'd make if he won the Oscar for Best Actor). Having talked to Condon just a week before, I'd hoped for more. Much more.

People expect Condon to be English. He's not. They also expect him to be witty. He is. "Don't be afraid if you hear some odd noises," he warns me. "I might start screaming." It's the kind of greeting you hope to hear when a horror-movie director picks up the phone, but Condon is not talking from the crypt – just LA – where building work on his neighbour's apartment is making his blood boil.

A philosophy graduate, Condon moved to LA from New York in 1983 to script obscure, cult chillers such as *Strange Invaders* ("an alien invasion movie") and *Strange Behaviour* ("a mad-doctor movie"). From such B-movie beginnings, he managed to work his way behind the camera for an auspicious-sounding debut: directing Eric Stoltz and Jennifer Jason Leigh in a romantic thriller called *Sister Sister*.

"The film was not a success," admits Condon cheerfully, "so I went to film-makers' jail: directing cable movies." Having served his small screen sentence, Condon is back this week with *Gods and Monsters*. More character study than Ed Wood-style spook-fest, it's a rather different creature to Condon's earlier efforts.

Based on the novel *Father of Frankenstein* by Chris Bram, the film opens many years after such



'It took months, and endless calls from my agent, to get Ian to read the script'

peccably dressed but physically frail, McKellen's Whale swings between sly humour and suicidal despair; nostalgia and nightmare as he reminisces about lost loves, past productions and a miserable, working-class childhood.

McKellen's Whale impersonation is inspired, but there was a time when the actor wanted nothing to do with Whale. "Chris had Ian in mind even as he was writing the novel, so I certainly saw him on screen when I was writing my screenplay," says Condon, "but it took several months and endless calls from my agent to get him to read it." A nice pause for dramatic effect. "When he finally did, he jumped on board."

Condon faced a similar struggle selling *Gods and Monsters* to a studio. The director has said he

"would never even have pitched it to a major". Why? "Because 80 per cent of it was two people sitting in a room, talking. It's about a man who is losing his powers, not gaining powers. It's about loss, regret and melancholy. It has a gay man in the lead and it's not a perky, gay-lifestyle movie. It's about the darker, more complicated side of being gay."

Instead he approached smaller, independent studios where he was "a victim of the PC-police. They looked at the characters and said 'let's make them positive depictions'." To whitewash a movie about the creator of *Frankenstein* seemed too ironic, even for a man of Condon's satirical sensibilities, so it was lucky that he finally found a company that gave him the freedom to show Whale, warts and all.

Condon used his experience of working with British director Tony Richardson to paint a picture of an ex-pat who found his self-imposed exile equally lonely and liberating. "Early on in my career, I wrote a couple of scripts for Tony," says the director. "He was so glad to get away from the whole British class system in California, I modelled some of Whale on him." Other elements of the character came from friends of Whale's, and from McKellen himself.

At the start, Condon admits, he was intimidated by his lead actor: "Not just because of his talent, but because of the number of amazing directors he's worked with. It was like being the new lover of someone who has been in bed with many of the greatest film-makers of all time. It makes you self-conscious." But Condon found him easy to work with and generous in his performance.

"I think Ian reveals a lot of himself in this movie," Condon says with a naughty giggle. "This character can be wildly manipulative at times, and Ian gets right in touch with all that stuff from inside himself."

If the relationship between Whale and his handyman forms the film's emotional core, Condon amuses himself stylistically by fashioning



Boris Karloff as the original monster in Whale's classic version of 'Frankenstein'; left, Bill Condon

Fraser's flat-topped bulk into a Karloff lookalike, and pastiching Whale's pictures. "The scenes from *The Bride of Frankenstein* were great fun, but I enjoyed using touches of Whale throughout," says Condon. "At the beginning, for instance, when you first see Clay, it's in di-

vidual body parts, like Frankenstein's monster. Then there's Lynn Redgrave's Teutonic housekeeper, whose character is straight out of his horror

"Oh yes," says Condon, "I think for him the great moral sin was for anyone to take themselves too seriously."

By giving audiences a Whale of a

time, *Gods and Monsters* should bring this forgotten director back to life for a new generation. Shame about that Oscar speech, though.

'Gods and Monsters' is on release from tomorrow. See *The Big Picture*, page 10

ROBERT HANKS ON TV



'The Lost Race'... in making fascism ridiculous did more to neuter it than any number of demonstrations

PAGE 18

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DR STRANGELOVE
(STANLEY KUBRICK, 1963)

SOCIAL PARODY is the link between these two films. *Being There* would be on my greatest film list. Peter Sellers is another connection between these films – and I am a big Sellers fan – but they are also similarly themed. The film shows the end of the world, when a paranoid US general goes truly over the edge. Sellers plays three roles, including the US President. And despite the serious anti-war message, it strikes a chord with me.

Peter Sellers plays an idiot. However, after a string of misconceptions he is hailed as a wise man. The film is not as incomprehensible as the story appears in outline, and by the end of the film when he is heading up a major corporation, it's somehow believable. A lot of the believability is because of astutely observed scenes, illustrating how easily we can be fooled. For instance, Sellers is holding court at a fancy party and people come up and question him, as you would a wise man, and he gives himself away – saying, "I don't read" – and they take this as meaning that one shouldn't read. Via these instances, he becomes the man others perceive him to be.

Ashby is my favourite director. Since I was a young man he has been a hero of mine; his whole body of work is stunning. *Harold and Maude* and

Coming Home would be

Peter Sellers is another connection between these films – and I am a big Sellers fan – but they are also similarly themed. The film shows the end of the world, when a paranoid US general goes truly over the edge. Sellers plays three roles, including the US President. And despite the serious anti-war message, it strikes a chord with me.

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Ashby is my favourite

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Works gyms can be a good place to get ahead, but don't outrun the boss. By Annabel Venning

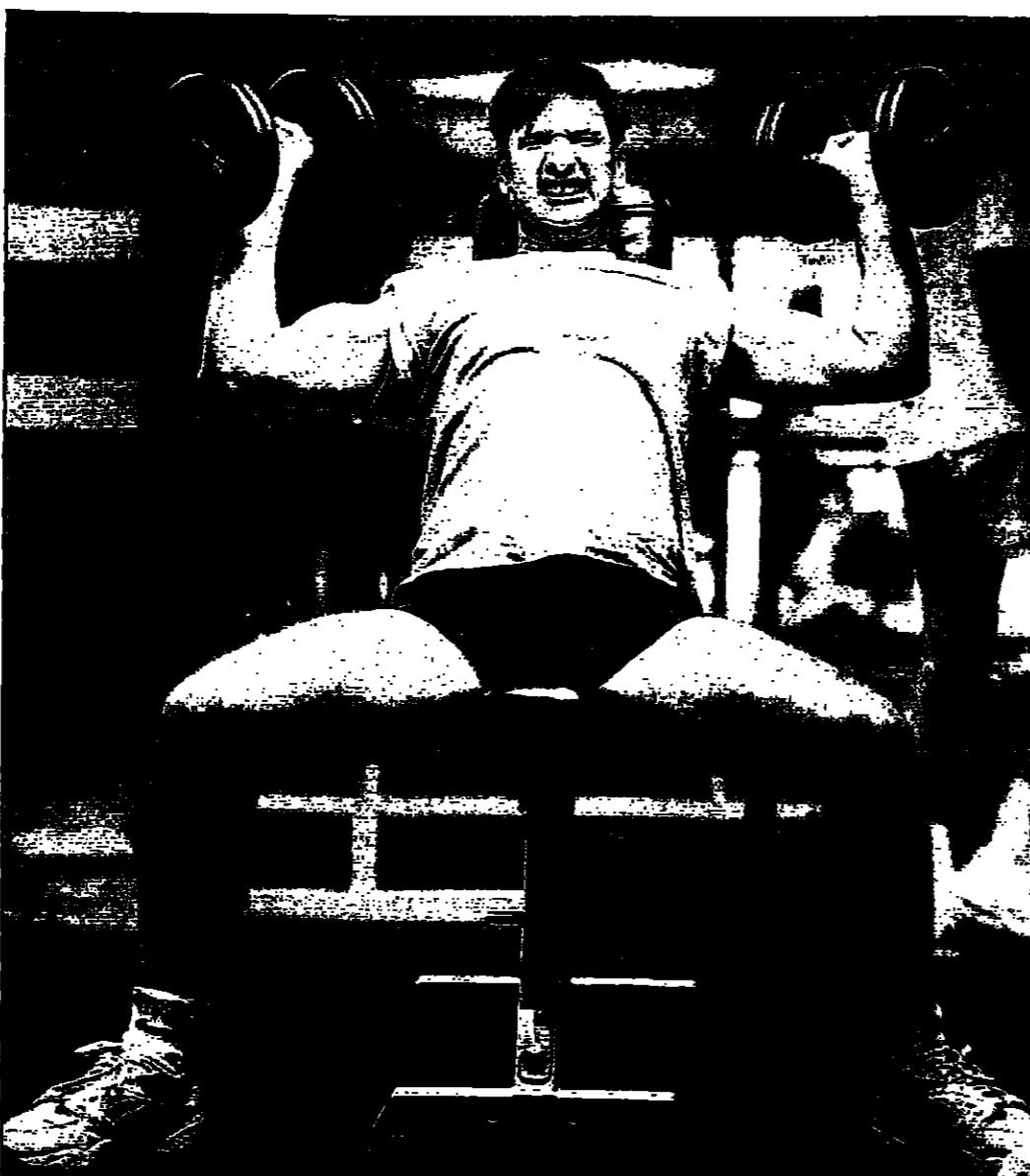
Are you fit for the job?

Bill Clinton has a habit of inviting photographers along when he does the presidential running shorts for a morning jog, a ritual that has become semi-obligatory for presidents and presidential hopefuls. It's a way of saying "Look at me, I'm full of energy and stamina, always ready for action." (Although Monica Lewinsky could have told us that) Likewise, Princess Diana's gym visits were integral to her compassionate-but-in-control image.

But it's not just presidents and princesses who see keeping fit as part of the job. British employers are increasingly setting up gyms in their office blocks, forming company sports clubs and football teams and offering employees corporate membership at a local fitness centre. The Ultimate in Fitness Ltd (which supplies exercise equipment) reports that demand from corporate clients has increased by a staggering 100 per cent in the past five years, while Granada Health and Fitness (which manages company gyms) reports that this area of their business is seeing an annual growth rate of 21 per cent.

So what can this trend offer the graduate recruit, apart from bigger biceps? Can climbing a Stairmaster help you climb the career ladder; or will beating your boss at squash backfire on you? The world of corporate sport, it seems, is a mixed blessing. According to Dai Williams, an occupational psychologist with EOS Career Services, the biggest benefit of fitness to graduates is its role as stress-buster: "In a highly pressured environment, personal fitness is essential - all the body's mechanisms for coping with stress are geared to being fit," she explains.

Indeed, City recruitment firms claim high-flying job-seekers are increasingly including sports facilities on their list of "fundamentals", alongside pensions and health insurance. After all, says Williams, it also has great social potential. "One of the greatest challenges for new recruits - particularly graduates - is establishing a social network."



Exercising in the company gym gives employers a positive impression of staff Philip Meech

Being seen to exercise and play sport also sends out the right messages, she adds. "It shows you're a positive person and that you recognise the value of having balance in your life. In addition, if you see your manager in the gym regularly, it

gives you something in common." The mistake all too many eager-to-please graduates make, however, is failing to recognise that few managers appreciate being tackled about business as they sit, legs splayed, on the hip-adductor. "Most

graduate recruits are dying to reveal to their boss how committed they are," explains Alison Matthews, an occupational psychologist. "But it's one of those unwritten rules that, whilst doing this during corporate drinks or dinners may be acceptable,

it certainly isn't when working out in the company gym."

Even more problematic is when the tables are turned. Amanda Webster, PA to an insurance broker, says of her boss in the changing rooms: "She acted like we were still in the office, even though we were both stark naked, which was very disconcerting. She'd towel-dry herself, bend over to touch her toes, and all the while talk about meetings. I had to stop going to the gym."

Nevertheless, Cary Cooper, professor of organisational psychology at UMIST, claims there are solutions. Make a ground rule very early on with superiors that work is not to be discussed in the gym, he advises. "And if you do not have that type of relationship, or lack the social confidence to say it, then get the message over by always switching the topic away from work. Do not refer to him or her in the gym, or this will reinforce the hierarchies."

Playing competitive sports with colleagues may present a different set of difficulties. Charlie Pearson, a fund manager who plays squash at lunchtimes, found that aggression can continue off-court: "There's one manager who is hostile to me for the whole day if I beat him," he remarks.

Professor Cooper claims this is by far the most risky aspect of corporate sport, and that the only answer is to stop playing. "If they bring their aggravation from the squash court into work, that either says something about the culture they are operating in, or about them - that they are too achievement-driven." The same goes for team sports. Company games can have great potential for building team spirit, but they may also be counter-productive, raising your stress levels and threatening off-pitch relationships.

A final word of caution comes from one trainee solicitor whose relationship with a senior partner changed radically after seeing him at the swimming pool: "He always seemed very high-powered and suave in his expensive suits," she says. "Then I saw him at the pool and lost my awe: how could I respect a man who wore Speedos?"

Clean the slate

IN 1959, a Castleford man named John Smith offered his local mayor £500 in a crass attempt to "persuade" him to use his influence to get the council to sell him some land. The affair reeked of corruption. Upholding his conviction, the Court of Appeal pointed out that this was just the kind of temptation that the law was designed to prevent.

Corruption was an ordinary word that a jury could easily understand and needed simple legal expression.

The disgrace of the International Olympic Committee members involved in the 2002 Winter Olympics affair and the savaging of the European Commission speaks for itself. The acceptance of large sums of money and the appointment of cronies, combined with the unaccounted distribution of funds does not seem too far away from the story of the mayor of Castleford.

It would be comforting to know that in Britain we are well protected by the law against this kind of disgraceful behaviour. Yet the criminal law can continue off-court: "There's one manager who is hostile to me for the whole day if I beat him," he remarks.

Professor Cooper claims this is by far the most risky aspect of corporate sport, and that the only answer is to stop playing. "If they bring their aggravation from the squash court into work, that either says something about the culture they are operating in, or about them - that they are too achievement-driven." The same goes for team sports. Company games can have great potential for building team spirit, but they may also be counter-productive, raising your stress levels and threatening off-pitch relationships.

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NICHOLAS PAUL

allows the jury to draw such inferences as appear proper from a defendant's failure to testify or answer a question. This makes the presumption unnecessary. Further it may be that this burden is a breach of Article 6(2) of the European Convention of Human Rights which provides that "Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law". The position on inferences from silence following the Northern Ireland case of Murray v UK is under review in pending cases. And if it can be argued that the presumption is effectively a form of coercion in the face of questioning then the legal position looks untenable.

The other concern is the pressing need to deal with the problem that corruption offences are to be found in 11 different statutes. The Law Commission has recommended a specific offence of bribery.

The strengthened police powers to investigate and seize material under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1994, the defence disclosure provisions under the Criminal Procedure and Investigation Act 1996 and permissible entry and interference with property provisions of the Police Act 1997 all enable the authorities to conduct a vigorous investigation and present a compelling case.

Forty years on the time has surely come to get it right.

Nicholas Paul is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers

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For more details and an application form (to be returned by 9 April 1999), write to: CFSO Co-ordinator, Directorate of Counter Fraud Services, Room 330, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS, or telephone 0171 210 5284, or fax 0171 210 5289. Please quote the appropriate reference number.

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OPPOSITE OF 34X

NEW FILMS

APRILE (15)

Director: Nanni Moretti
Starring: Nanni Moretti, Silvia Nonn
More meta-documentary shenanigans from Nanni Moretti, a sort of Roman Woody Allen complete with the same nerdy patter, the same self-reflexive neuroses. His skittish, mercurial *Aprile* free-wheels through a three-year period in Italian politics. Meantime, running as a kind of sonic counterpoint, goes the director's will-he-won't intention to make a musical about a Trolskyite pastry chef. Impossible to pigeon-hole, *Aprile* dances to its own realist/absurdist rhythms before bowing out with a finale that's both ridiculous and charming. *West End: Metro, Renoir*

ARLINGTON ROAD (15)

Director: Mark Pellington
Starring: Jeff Bridges, Tim Robbins
*Trouble's a-brewing behind the manicured suburban lawns of Mark Pellington's intriguingly staged paranoiac thriller, which sees Jeff Bridges' college prof becoming suspicious about the antics of his outwardly respectable neighbour (Tim Robbins). Meanwhile, Pellington goes big on skewed camera angles, yet rings too few changes in his film's familiar territory. With Joen Cusack and Hope Davies. *West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas**

A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (15)

Director: John Fortenberry
Starring: Will Ferrell, Chris Kattan
Fortenberry's indulgent showcase for Saturday Night Live favourites Ferrell and Kattan is so bovine that it moos. Here come our imbecile heroes: squabbling with daddy (Dan Hedaya) and cruising the mall-spaces of Nineties LA, while one ham-fisted comedy sequence follows another. Think *Dumb and Dumber* without the wit. One whole night. It only gets that long. *West End: Plaza, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas*

Opportunity in
Development

GENERAL RELEASE

AFFLICTION (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre

BELOVED (15)

Jonathan Demme's adaptation of Toni Morrison's multi-layered novel was always going to make for an uneasy marriage; hopping shakily between upfront dramatics and down-in-the-mix mysticism. Still, heartfelt acting and a vibrant visual sense paper over all manner of cracks. *West End: Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas*

A BUG'S LIFE (U)

Rumble insect Flik tries to save his community from marauding grasshoppers (headed by Kevin Spacey). *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas*

PECKER (18)

Trash auteur John Waters swerves into summer streets with Pecker, his satirical tale of an amateur photographer adopted by New York's elite. *Repertory: Prince Charles, Local: Wimbledon Odeon*

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

George Clooney plays the law-breaking hero as a down-and-dirty version of Cary Grant, and turns in the best performance of his career so far. *West End: Ritzy Cinema, Repertory: Prince Charles, Local: Wimbledon Odeon*

PATCH ADAMS (12)

Through the hallowed halls of medical college goes Hunter "Patch" Adams (Robin Williams), a shock-doc who has the patients in stitches while giving a collective heave to the stuffy Establishment. It's like the ultimate distillation of the ultimate Robin Williams movie: the life sucked out and replaced by syrup. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas*

SCHEZOPOLIS (15)

In Steven Soderbergh's experimental film, suburban manners, corporate paranoia, dental hygiene and the rituals of adultery are deconstructed in energetic, scattergun fashion, though the film is finally too film-school wacky to appeal. *West End: Curzon Soho*

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE THIN RED LINE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road. Local: Croydon Clocktower, Warner Village, Croydon, Warner Village

THEY'LL GET BY (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse and gets enrobed in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. *West End: ABC Piccadilly, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero. Local: Action Park Royal, Warner Village, Croydon, Warner Village*

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Chelsea Cinema, Curzon Soho, Screen on Baker Street. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema

HIDEOUS KINKY (15)

Through the landscape of 1970s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum, her two daughters unwillingly in tow. Winslet does well as the tale's permanently strung-out, unsated matriarch. *West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road*

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Full-throated playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's warts-and-all biopic of the Du Pré sisters, Hilary (by married flautist) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). *West End: ABC Piccadilly*

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)

In Roberto Benigni's comedy, the writer-director stars as a Jewish bookseller in fascist Italy. He's spirited off to a death-camp and strives to convince his son that it is just an eccentric game. A cast of Britain's finest (Kathy Burke, Ian Hart et al) weave to and fro through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance. *West End: Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End. Local: Phoenix Cinema, The Pullman Everyman. Local: Warner Village North Finchley*

LITTLE VOICE (15)

In her bedroom, Jane Horrocks perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Bracing black comedy, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push the film through to the final curtain. *West End: Odeon West End, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas*

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG)

Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan star in this contrived romance saved by a sired web plot hook. *West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. Local: ABC Piccadilly*

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

Don Roos' harum-scarum trip through American gender politics stars Christina Ricci as the dastardly teen whose precocious antics send the adults into a state. *West End: Warner Village West End. Local: Watermans Arts Centre*

YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS (18)

Another troubling X-ray of American mores from *In the Company of Men* director Neil LaBute. *West End: ABC Piccadilly*

SEUL CONTRE TOUS (18)

Director: Gaspard Noé
Starring: Philippe Nahon, Blandine Lenoir
Welcome to "shit-hole" France. Your guide: a sociopathic butcher (Nahon) who is pushed over the edge when he figures out that someone has abused his daughter. The style: crash-zooms and in-your-face close-ups. Less straight cinema than a kind of whiplashing fairground ride, *Seul Contre Toi* is an attention-grabbing debut for the talented Noé. But its harsh exposé of modern France is compromised by its creator's relentlessly gimmicky style. *West End: Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema*

SOUTHPAW (15)

Director: Liam McGrath
Starring: Francis Barrett
This coarse-grained, warm-hearted film charts the rise of 10-year-old light-welterweight Francis Barrett, an Irish traveller with dreams of Olympic glory. Bobbing around the caravan sites of County Galway, Liam McGrath's documentary gently spotlights anti-traveller prejudice while paying lip-service to the views of local eccentricities. *Southpaw* is a shade soft in its centre, but it's impeccably well-intentioned. *West End: Metro, Renoir*

WALKING MED (PG)

Director: Kirk Jones
Starring: Ian Barbour, David Kelly
Good news first: Ned, a salt-of-the-earth resident of Tully in rural Ireland, has just won the lottery. Bad news: Ned is dead. Cue a rattle-bag of comedic misadventure as two skylabwags scheme to get their paws on the lotto. The film has a twisty underlow of black comedy, but it's too airbrushed for its own good. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas*

Xan Brooks

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Pleasantville (12)

Two Nineties teenagers are magicked into the world of a favourite Fifties sitcom and begin to exert a dramatic influence on its conformist black-and-white idyll. A witty, inventive parable.

Festen (15)

Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's superlative black comedy centres on the 60th birthday of a family patriarch who finds himself at the heart of dark secrets that unexpectedly emerge.

The Thin Red Line (15)

Terrence Malick returns to the screen after a 20-year absence with a hugely ambitious film (right) about the battle of Guadalcanal. A war movie of a sort, though what that might be is uncertain.

Affliction (15)

Paul Schrader's bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism, stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad, James Coburn, in an Oscar-winning performance.

Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable, multi-Oscar winning film suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*.

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Trollius and Cressida (Olivier, NT, London)

This theatre and this Shakespeare play are made for each other, a fact proved by the masterly sweep and precision of focus in Trevor Nunn's gifted production. *To 19 May*

Shockheaded Peter (Lyric Hammersmith, London)

The *Stravinsky* stories, served up as an unforgettable gory feast of the comic macabre in this mordantly inventive evening of music theatre (right). *To 10 Apr*

Copenhagen (Duchess Theatre, London)

Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. *To 7 Aug*

The Dispute (Poole Arts Centre)

Neil Bartlett's devilishly good production of Marivaux's clever tragicomedy. *To 27 Mar*

Volpone (Swan Theatre, Stratford)

Comedies don't come any funnier or more asthmatic than Ben Jonson's brilliant dissection of avaricious, over-reaching egotism. *Ends tomorrow*

ANTHONY QUINN

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery)

Big retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master). The build-up is slow and the end is sorry, but the brief "drip" period deserves every superlative. *To 6 Jun*

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)

Some of the most intense portraiture ever. Exquisite *melanges* of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. *To 25 Apr*

Patrick Caulfield (Hayward Gallery)

The modern object-world made luminous. Caulfield is a virtuoso of many styles, and this retrospective offers the range – notably those fat, laconic outlines flooded with translucent colour. *To 11 Apr*

Oppé Watercolour Collection (Whitworth, Manchester)

Classic British watercolours (right) made largely outdoors, including Alexander Cozens' sketches, Constable, John Sell Cotman and Francis Towne. *To 5 Apr*

Richard Deacon (Tate, Liverpool)

Chunky, curvaceous assemblages of wood, metal, and plastic by the noted sculptor. *To 16 May*

TOM LUBBOCK

HARROW

SAFARI CINEMA (0181-246 0303)
• Harrow-on-the-Hill/Inrow & Woodside Arzoo 1.30pm, 3pm, 8.45pm Fire 7pm Ham Asapke Hall Main Rehearsal Hall 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009)
• Harrow-on-the-Hill/Britain's Way Arlington Road 11.20am, 2.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm A Bug's Life 11am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm Patch Adams 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Pleasantville 1.25pm, 4.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm Walking Ned 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm You've Got Mail 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

HOLLOWAY

ODEON (01807-050007) • Holloway Road, Arlington Road 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Belowed 4.15pm, 7.45pm A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Pleasantsville 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm The Thin Red Line 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 7.50pm This Year's Love 9.50pm Urban Legend 4.50pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm Walking Ned 11.10am, 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm You've Got Mail 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

KILBURN

TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000)
• Kilburn The General 3pm Walking Ned 7pm, 9.15pm

KINGSTON

ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409)
BR: Kingston Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.05pm Patch Adams 2.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

ILFORD

ODEON (08707-050007) • Ilford Rill's Life 1pm, 3.15pm Patch Adams 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Pleasantville 12.25pm, 3.35pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 12.40pm, 4.20pm, 7.30pm This Year's Love 11.30am, 2.10pm, 5.30pm Walking Ned 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 7.30pm Making Mail 11.10am, 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

FELTHAM

CINEMOWORLD (0181-303 1550)
BR: Feltham Junction 1.10am, 2.20pm, 3.30pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 6.45pm, 7.30pm, 8.15pm Pleasantville 1.10am, 2.20pm, 3.30pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 6.45pm, 7.30pm, 8.15pm Patch Adams 1.10am, 2.

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Patch Adams 5.20pm, 8.20pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR: Chelwood Arlington Road 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Patch Adams 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 8.20pm Walking Ned 2.15pm, 5pm, 8.20pm, 9.45pm You've Got Mail 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3365) BR/B: Stratford Arlington Road 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm A Bug's Life 1pm, 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm Pleasantville 3.15pm, 4.35pm, 8pm Walking Ned 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm

STREATHAM ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill A Night at the Roxbury 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm Patch Adams 2.15pm, 4.55pm, 8.20pm Pleasantville 3.15pm, 4.35pm, 8pm Walking Ned 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm

ODEON (087050-050007) BR: Streatham Hill Belowed 12.45pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm A Bug's Life 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm How Stellie Got Her Groove Back 6.05pm, 8.35pm Pleasantville 3.10pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm Walking Ned 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm You've Got Mail 12.40pm, 5.30pm

SURREY QUAYS UCI (0990-889990) BR: Surrey Quays Arlington Road 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm, 11.45pm A Bug's Life 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm A Night at the Roxbury 2.10pm, 3.15pm, 5pm, 7pm Walking Ned 1.40pm, 3pm, 5.30pm Pleasantville 12.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm The Opposite of Sex 18pm 6pm

CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Central Station [15] 12.45pm, 7.10pm April (12) 3pm, 9.20pm La Vie Révée des Anges [18] 6pm

CARDOFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Outrage [NC] 2.30pm, 7.30pm Rossetti [15] 6.15pm Hideous Kinky [15] 8.40pm

CHICHESTER NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-766501) Elizabeth [15] 1pm & 6.15pm Shakespeare in Love [15] 3.45pm

IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Titanic Town [15] 6pm, 8.15pm La Vita è Bella [PG] 6.15pm, 8.30pm

NORWICH CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Hideous Kinky [15] 8.15pm La Vita è Bella [PG] 5.30pm

PLYMOUTH PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) * (P) [15] 6pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON (ABRIGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-tracks through to 12pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm This Year's Love 10.20pm, 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Walking Ned 12.40pm, 2.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm You've Got Mail 12.55pm, 3.40pm, 5.30pm

SWISS COTTAGE WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110) Finchley Road, Arlington Road 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm Patch Adams 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm Pleasantville 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.20pm The Thin Red Line 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.20pm Walking Ned 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.20pm You've Got Mail 1.30pm, 3.30pm

SUTTON UCI (0990-889990) BR: Sutton Arundel Road 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.45pm A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm Patch Adams 12.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Pleasantville 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.20pm Walking Ned 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.20pm You've Got Mail 1.30pm, 3.30pm

TURPIN LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519) * Turnip Lane, London, Adams 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm This Year's Love 4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Urban Legend 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.10pm

UXBRIDGE ODEON (08705-050007) * Uxbridge Arlington Road 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm A Bug's Life 1.10pm, 3.15pm Patch Adams 5.30pm, 8.35pm

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-902 0424) * Walthamstow Central A Night at the Roxbury 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm Patch Adams 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Walking Ned 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm You've Got Mail 1.20pm, 3.30pm

WALTON THE SCREEN (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames La Vita è Bella 6pm, 8.30pm Walking Ned 2.35pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 8pm

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham Pleasantville 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Thin Red Line 3.30pm, 7.35pm

WILLESDEN BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) * Willesden Green Arxoo 1pm Madeline 4.45pm Shakespeare in Love 6.30pm, 8pm

WIMBLEDON ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Wimbledon Life 1.10pm, Patch Adams 2.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm Pleasantville 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.25pm The Thin Red Line 12.50pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm Walking Ned 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.35pm You've Got Mail 1.10pm, 6.05pm

WOODFORD ABC (0181-989 3463) * South Woodford Arlington Road 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Patch Adams 5.50pm, 8.20pm Shakespeare in Love 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

WOOD GREEN NEIN CURZON (0181-347 6664) * Turnpike Lane, London, Open Up! A Time... When We Were Colored Girls

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal, Arlington Road 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.35pm Patch Adams 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON CINE LUMIERE Queenberry Place, SW7 (0171-838 2144) Comte d'Hiver [12] 8.30pm

ICA The Mall, SW1 (0171-974 7711) Al Massir - Le Destin [NC] 6pm, 8.30pm Modulations [NC] 6.30pm, 8.45pm

THE LUX Hoxton Square, N1 (0171-684 2201) The City: Architecture in the Cinema [NC] * pm Virtual Geographies: Architecture in the Cinema Shorts [NC] 8pm

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3223) Fire [15] 2.30pm The Circus Queen Murders/Night Club Lady: Anything Goes [NC] 6pm Elena et les Hommes [NC] 6.15pm Millions Like Us [U] 7.30pm Ann Curver's Profession/The Woman I Stole: Anything Goes [NC] 8.30pm Hope Floats [PG] 8.40pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road, N2 (0181-444 6789) Festen [15] 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 8.45pm La Vita è Bella [PG] 6.05pm

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. Seats at all prices. Seats at some prices. O—Returns or Matinees [11]; Sun, [3]; Tue, [4]; Wed, [5]; Thur, [6]; Fri, [7]; Sat

THE PULLMAN EVERYMAN Holly Bush Vale, NW3 (0171-606 2345) La Vita è Bella [PG] 3.30pm, 6.10pm Days of Heaven: Introduced by Emily Perkins [15] 8.45pm (SUBJECT TO LICENSE)

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road, NW1 (0171-420 0100) Cinema Paradiso [PG] 6.30pm + Dear Diary 8.55pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford [15] 1pm The Opposite of Sex [18] 1.30pm, 7pm Walking Ned [PG] 5pm

BRIGHTON DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503) Clisse de Neige [NC] 6.45pm Dobermann [18] 4.30pm, 8.45pm Hamam: The Turkish Bath [NC] 2.15pm Secret Defense [PG] 7pm

THEATRE ROYAL Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) & Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 8pm, £12.50-£23.50, 180 mins.

ADAMUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic, SE1 (0171-928 0800) ♦ Pic: Grc, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 8pm, £12.50-£23.50, 180 mins.

ANIMAL CRACKERS Stage version of the Marx Brothers' classic at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-944 5372) BR/B: Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 8pm, £9.50-£30.00, 180 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE COTESLOE The hot Nick Dantes' drama from Kenneth Branagh in rep. today 2.15pm & 7.30pm, ends 28 Apr.

MYSTELTON The Colleen Bawn Dix Boucicault's drama of love and intrigue in 19th century Ireland. In rep. today 2.15pm & 7.30pm, ends 27 Mar.

OLIVER! Troilus and Cressida Shakespeare's retelling of Homer's Greek and Trojan heroes. In rep. tonight 7pm, ends 19 May. 150 mins. Oliver & Lydon: £32-E27. Cotesloe E12-E18. Seats from 7.30pm, £9.50-£20.00, 180 mins.

PART Tom Mannion, Danny Webb and Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ♦ Leic Sq, Tue-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 8pm, £9.50-£20.00, 90 mins.

THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Larval musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairytale. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, WC1 (0171-655 1888) ♦ Tott Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 8pm, £18.50-£30.00, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ♦ Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 8pm, £11.50-£23.50, 165 mins.

BUDWY Musical blog-about tracing the brief life of Budweiser. Strand Allday, WC2 (0171-930 8900) ♦ Covent Garden, Tue-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm, mat 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mat 11pm, Fri 10pm-11pm, £10-£20, half price Fri matins. 160 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poem. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-404 4075) ♦ Covent Garden, Tue 8pm, [3][7] 8pm, £10.50-£35. 165 mins.

CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Nicola Duffett star in the musical Adagio Maledi. Apollo, Aldwych Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) ♦ Charing X, Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 8pm, £11.50-£25. 130 mins.

COCAINE William Cheshire, David Troughton and others return home to the seedy underworld. Apollo, Aldwych Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) ♦ Pic: Circ, Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 8pm, £11.50-£25. 130 mins.

OPENHAGEN Drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075) BR/B: Victoria, Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 8pm, £10-£25. 120 mins.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's biopic of the musical. Apollo Victoria, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/B: Victoria, Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 8pm, £10-£25. 120 mins.

THURSDAY NIGHT FEVER BR/1976 musical featuring songs by the Bee Gees. London Palladium Argyle Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ♦ Oxford Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 8pm, £10.50-£35. 165 mins.

COLCHESTER THEATRE ROYAL The Price Playing drama about two estranged brothers. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thur-Sat 8pm, mat 8.30pm, £12-£15. Seats from 11.45pm.

SLAVES SNOWSHOME Slava's mesmeric magic show. Piccadilly Street, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ♦ Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 8pm, £12-£15. 130 mins.

TRUST Gary Mitchell's explosive new drama. Royal Court Upstairs (At the Duke of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ♦ Pic: Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 8pm, £12.50-£15. 145 mins.

WITNESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's biopic of the musical. Apollo Victoria, SW1 (0171-494 5075) BR/B: Victoria, Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 8pm, £10-£25. 120 mins.

WITNESS DOWN THE WIND Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical based on the film. Royal Court, Aldwych Lane, WC2 (0171-416 6000) ♦ Pic: Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 8pm, £12.50-£15. 150 mins.

WITNESS TO THE TRUTH New production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5937) ♦ Pic: Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 8pm, £12.50-150. 150 mins.

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THURSDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

576-929MHz FM
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamecq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Trade Update. 10.30 John Peel. 12.00 Andy Kershaw. 2.00 Clive Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2

68-902MHz FM
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart.

5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 David Allen. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 Take It Easy - California Cool. See Pick of the Day. 9.30 At the Boot: Willie Ruston. 10.00 The Alan Price Set. 10.30 Richard Allison. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3

(902-924MHz FM)

6.00 On Air.

9.00 Masterworks.

10.30 Artist of the Week.

11.00 Sound Stories.

12.00 Composer of the Week.

13.00 Hubert.

14.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Paul Allen introduces a recital given last Thursday in the Bridgewater Hall by Japanese pianist Noriko Ogawa. Mozart: Piano Sonata in A minor, K310. Schumann: Davidsbundlertanz. Op 6.

2.00 The BBC Orchestras.

4.00 Ensemble.

4.45 Music Machine. (R)

5.00 In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. Conductor Paavo Järvi, Aleksander Madzic (piano), Stravinsky: Jeu de cartes, Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No 3.

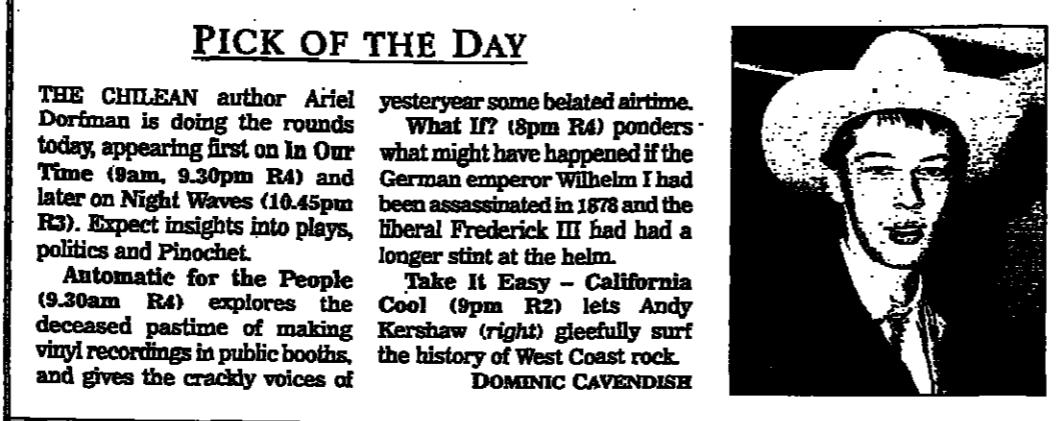
Shostakovich: Symphony No 5.

9.25 Postscript. Five programmes in which Ivan Russell-Jones looks at attitudes to the body in our culture.

4: 'The Hungry Heart'. The medieval virtue of asceticism is still valued and practised in Mount St Bernard.

Abbey, near Leicester, by its community of strict Cistercian monks, who rise every morning at 3.5am to begin their day of prayer and work. But are the gym junkies of the 90s ascetics too?

10.00 Music Restored. Lucie Skeaping introduces highlights of a concert given last month in the Wigmore



PICK OF THE DAY

THE CHILEAN author Ariel Dorfman is doing the rounds today, appearing first on *In Our Time* (8am, 9.30pm R4) and later on *Night Waves* (10.45pm R3). Expect insights into plays, politics and Pinochet.

Automatic for the People (9.30am R4) explores the deceased pastime of making vinyl recordings in public booths, and gives the crackly voices of

yesterday some belated airtime. What if? (8pm R4) ponders what might have happened if the German emperor Wilhelm I had been assassinated in 1878 and the liberal Frederick III had had a longer stint at the helm.

Take It Easy - California Cool (8pm R2) lets Andy Kershaw (right) gleefully surf the history of West Coast rock.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

Hall, London, by the chamber ensemble Sonnerie.

10.45 **Night Waves**. Tim Marlow presents the arts and culture magazine. Guests include Ariel Dorfman, whose new novel, *The Nanny and the Lieberberg*, centres on the story of Gabriel McKenzie, who was conceived on the night of the Guerrera's death and who returns to Chile from Manhattan as the country prepares to mark the 500th anniversary of the European discovery. See *Pick of the Day*.

11.30 **Jazz Notes**.

12.00 **Composer of the Week**:

Hubert.

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5.57 **Weather**.

6.00 **6.00 Six O'Clock News**.

6.30 **That Reminds Me**.

7.00 **NEWS: The Archers**.

7.25 **Front Row: Radio 4 at The Word**: Mark Lawson with arts news, reviews and interviews.

7.45 **The Cry of the Bittern**: An environmental drama by Tim Jackson.

Director Vanessa Whitburn (29/30).

8.00 **NEWS: What If?**. Four programmes in which Professor Christopher Andrew imagines how past events could have been different.

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Ten years earlier, his father was shot by a would-be assassin. What if the old Kaiser had died and his son had enjoyed a decade of power with Queen Victoria's eldest daughter at his side? See *Pick of the Day*.

8.30 **The Week in Westminster**: Boris Johnson of the Daily Telegraph looks behind the scenes at Westminster.

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11.30 **My Uncle Freddie**.

12.00 **NEWS: You and Yours**.

1.00 **The World at One**.

1.30 **Open Country**.

2.00 **NEWS: The Archers**.

2.25 **Afternoon Play: Straw without Bread**.

3.00 **NEWS: Call You and Yours**.

6.07 010 0444.

3.28 **Radio 4 Appeal**.

3.30 **The New Recruit**.

3.45 **This Sceptred Isle**.

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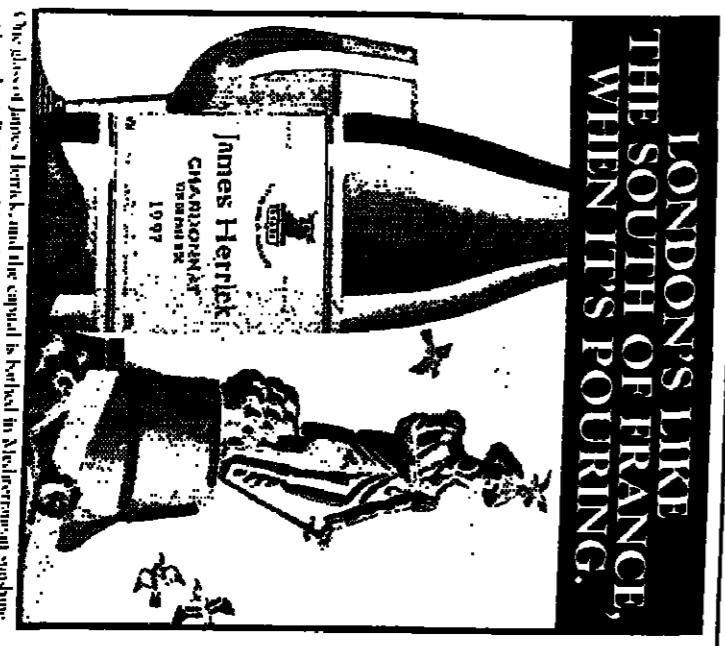
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TELEVISION REVIEW



The play's James Herlihy and his captor is parked in Mertoncourt sunshine

LONDONS LIKE THE SOUTH OF FRANCE WHEN IT'S POURING.

James Herlihy
Character
1977

THERE IS A TENDENCY IN Britain to assume that we are at its zenith in 1976. The NF have got anywhere here, from the extremes of left- and right-wing politics. Not because of our fully developed civic culture and respect for democracy, but because of our highly developed sense of the ridiculous. Hitler would never have got anywhere here, the NF leaders blazoned on a single one such as deport. From here on in, the story was pure farce, punctuated by occasional episodes of violence in response to the electoral defeat, which the NF leaders blamed on a Zionist conspiracy; the party turned to religious renewal. NF activists were reborn as "Political Soldiers", destined to inspire others by the strength of their convictions (which were mainly for violence and drunkenness). Recruitment plummeted.

In an attempt to widen its electoral base, the NF then started appealing to black voters, hoping for an alliance with black separatists such as Louis Farrakhan; this didn't work.

They even won the Jewish community at which point the party fell apart. New factions sprung up, including the Third Position, which wanted to touch with the soil of these islands. It did this by moving to The Lost Race (BBC2). In

which Jolyon Jenkins traced the rise and fall of the National Front and the various splinter groups that succeeded it.

This film beggars belief, but it was simply demonstrated, ludicrous, conspiratorial, and perhaps gets things the wrong way round.

You put it, the truth is that for all the ugliness and viciousness, British fascists remain irreducibly ludicrous. They can afford to laugh at it in a way that other countries can't.

But whichever way round the NF has never got a political foothold in Britain, largely to our frustration. The last election saw them vote in a hung parliament, the party split, and the NF was finally demonstrated, ludicrous, conspiratorial, and perhaps gets things the wrong way round.

It had never had more than a couple of people. Another branch became so confused it titled "Third Way", which

they began grimly enough, to stay away from the city. Asian displaced people were persecuted – refugees beaten, women beaten through the letterbox – and support for the NF mushroomed.

But this banding was never

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